

FOSTERING EFFECTIVE PARISH STEWARDSHIP FORMATION

Thanks to Bill Yon, a fellow sojourner in the stewardship vineyard, for the following list of conditions that we have found to foster effective stewardship formation in the parish.

- Clergy are tithers or are committed to a plan of increased proportionate giving leading to the tithe.
- Clergy are willing to witness publicly to their own understanding and practice of stewardship and invite members of the parish to reexamine their own beliefs and practices as well.
- Vestry members are committed to proportionate giving (leading toward the tithe) as the pattern of their own practice of stewardship and give clear encouragement to others to do the same.
- Stewardship education focuses on the need of the giver to give, not the need of the church to receive.
- The rector and vestry are committed to increasing the percentage of parish income devoted to mission outside the parish and hold specific mission opportunities in front of the congregation.
- Opportunities are provided annually for parishioners to talk through their decisions about giving with their fellow Christians.
- Before the stewardship financial commitment program, parishioners are given training necessary to approach this ministry with clarity and confidence.
- A careful plan is developed to carry a stewardship education effort through to a successful conclusion.
- Careful evaluation of the year-round parish stewardship program is conducted annually, enabling the parish to build on successes and learn from mistakes from year to year.

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