

Some thoughts about Stewardship and its meaning in our lives

- **STEWARDSHIP** is a not program. **STEWARDSHIP** is a process, ... a process of **CONVERSION**.
- When God breaks in on a sufficiently prepared people, a new belief and practice of **STEWARDSHIP** is developed, and a joyful generosity emerges.
- Good **STEWARDSHIP** centers upon the conversion of people, not the collection of more dollars.
- Good **STEWARDSHIP** enables church leaders to talk about money in ways that transform lives.
- God loves us just where we are in our spiritual journey ... but doesn't want us to stay there.
- There are more people who act their way into a new way of thinking than there are people who think their way into a new way of acting.
- Do we look at life from the viewpoint of scarcity or abundance? If you want to be rich, give. If you want to be poor, grasp.

We know:

- Money represents power, security, and identity in our culture
- Our relationship with money is a powerful force in our lives
- Money can control our lives

We also know:

- Many people come to hear about stewardship feeling defensive
- Congregations often are looking for a “quick fix” for what they believe are their financial problems
- Many so-called stewardship programs do not work because they focus on moral imperatives – “shoulds” and “oughts”

We believe:

- God gives us choices about how we use our money

- The use of money has spiritual as well as material implications
- It is important to create a safe place for people to experience acceptance, forgiveness and understanding over the sometimes tough issues of money

If we are to assist people in their spiritual journeys and help them to make the “conversion connection,”

We will offer:

- Opportunities for grace-filled experiences that will allow people to choose to reorient the way they use money
- Opportunities that will break the conspiracy of silence about issues of money and faith
- A process that will provide people with an opportunity to think about the role of money in their lives in an entirely new way
- An effective stewardship formation program that will bring about transformation in people’s spiritual lives

What are some of the Words of Conversion, the words that describe our stewardship journey, the words that may invite others to join us in the journey?

- Thanksgiving
- Grace, Gratitude, Generosity
- Abundance
- Offering
- Gifts, Giftedness
- Life-changing
- Spiritual health