

Creating and Maintaining a Long-term, Year-round Stewardship Program

We believe that the following components constitute an effective, long-term, year-round program of stewardship formation. Once you have put these in place, review and update them as necessary.

- Parish Mission Statement.
- Vestry Stewardship Statement.
- Stewardship Ministry Team that functions year-round.
- Educational programs about God's abundance, our giftedness, and offering as a way we draw closer to God.
- Invitations to engage in discussions regarding attitudes about money.
- Year-round sermons and lay witness opportunities to describe lives of thankful stewards; discussions about ways in which we experience God's grace through our generous acts of giving.
- Quarterly Pledge Statements with signed thank-you letters that include descriptions of ministries supported by these offerings.
- Parish Stewardship Report (also known as a Narrative Budget or a Vision for Ministry) describing the ministry and mission of the church that is supported by the parishioners' offerings of time, talent and money.
- A well-designed and well-planned financial commitment program conducted by volunteers, who have received significant stewardship training. This stewardship education should include studying theology and witness as well as learning how to put into place practical ideas for increasing parishioner giving.
- Thank-you letters for financial commitments, including confirmation of their pledge, signed by the rector, wardens, stewardship chair, and treasurer, or some combination thereof.
- A legacy stewardship program that informs parishioners about their church's stewardship of accumulated assets and invites them to consider making gifts to support the mission and ministry of the church in their wills.

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