

Introduction

Stewardship is woven into the very fabric of our faith. As fundamental as breathing, we live and thrive surrounded by God's loving abundance. Out of our identity as God's own we seek to respond in love to the world around us. As church, we do not exist for ourselves alone; we are gathered in order to be sent to serve.

Logos Mission-based Stewardship Guide equips congregational leaders and stewardship committees with basic tools for effective and meaningful financial leadership. It includes ideas to help you:

- discern mission priorities
- incorporate the arts and theological reflection
- recruit team members
- introduce a mission-based approach to stewardship
- involve the congregation in the stewardship campaign
- stimulate ongoing dialog by following progress throughout the year

This reproducible resource includes information and worksheets on assessment, approach, communications, and follow through that you can return to, year after year.

Enhancing the basic foundations in this guide, Logos Productions offers beautiful and inspirational art-based resources that enliven stewardship themes for the whole congregation. These resources provide a three-week focus on stewardship themes including

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. — Isaiah 55:10-11

spiritual enrichment through worship and Bible study, culminating in a celebration of stewardship commitments for the coming year. These resources include the following:

- Poster Set offers three 17 x 27-inch posters.
- Worship Resources include ideas for congregational storytelling, sermon starters, prayers, music suggestions, children's sermons, and ideas for integrating the images in your stewardship program.
- Resource CD contains projectable images of the posters, reproducible and customizable resources from Logos Mission-based Stewardship Guide, worship resources, and art reflections.
- Bulletin Inserts offer three weeks of take-home devotionals using the art and stewardship themes.
- Commitment/Celebration Sunday Bulletin provides a standard- and legal-size cover for use on the final Sunday of the stewardship emphasis.
- Letterhead features the art used for commitment/celebration Sunday.
- Pledge form helps contributors to make a pledge and provides a reminder.

Logos Mission-based Stewardship Guide helps you to begin where you are and offers options to help each member of your congregation grow in their journey as stewards.

One of your first tasks as leader of your congregation's mission-based stewardship effort is to figure out where to begin the process.

Congregations will vary in their readiness to engage in a stewardship campaign based on mission priorities. For some, this represents a significant change in thinking from doing stewardship based only on a budget of anticipated expenses. You might need to start with some conversation about the pros and cons of various approaches to the budget process and how large a shift it will be for the congregation. Others have made this shift in thinking but don't have the background pieces in place, such as clearly identified mission priorities. Still others will have everything ready to go and will only need to organize communications and follow up with the congregation.

Entry points

To begin, spend time reading and reflecting on the information in *Images of Stewardship* (pp. 4-8), and *Choosing the Right Team* (pp. 9-11). Then use the following questions to help you choose the best entry point for your circumstances. Once you know where to start, you will know what to address when you convene the leadership group for the stewardship effort.

1. Has our congregation made the shift from building a budget based on line items alone to building a budget based on a few specific mission priorities?
 - a. If yes, go to question 2.
 - b. If no, read *A Stewardship 180* (pp. 12-17).
2. Do we know what our particular calling is as a congregation – the way or ways in which we will function in the image of God? In other words, do we have a few distinct and clearly articulated mission priorities?
 - a. If yes, go to question 3.
 - b. If no, read *Assess and Inspire* (pp. 18-29).
3. Do we have a plan for inviting everyone in the congregation to participate in financially supporting our mission priorities?
 - a. If yes, go for it! Start stuffing bulletins with inserts and envelopes with invitation letters. Then go to question 4.
 - b. If no, read *Communications 101* (pp. 30-40).
4. Do we have a follow-through plan?
 - a. If yes, congratulations!
 - b. If no, go to *Don't Leave 'em Hanging* (pp. 41-44).

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

– Micah 6:8