Financial Stewardship Programs

Tools to aid in Christian discipleship and generosity through a growing relationship with God

2017-2018

WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

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The mission of the Foundation is to be the primary resource in the Wisconsin United Methodist Fellowship for lifelong financial stewardship.
Programs Described in this Booklet

Best Financial Stewardship Programs

Selecting a Stewardship Campaign

Commitment Sunday Programs
Abundant Joy - Overflowing Generosity —
from “Giving” Magazine 2012
Fearless Generosity — from “Giving” Magazine 2014
First: Putting God First in Living and Giving
Decisions at the Crossroads
The New Consecration Sunday
Grow One Sunday — Online
Make it Simple
Saints Alive! Living Generously — from “Giving” Magazine 2011
Blessed Be The Lord God — from “Giving” Magazine 2008
New Love, New Mercy — from “Giving” Magazine 2009
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    Cycle of Victorious Giving; The Generosity Factor;
    God Rebuilds; Loving God, Loving Each Other;
    Lordship Living: God Provides; One Family; Planning
    Your Life Around the Kingdom; A World of Possibility
Extravagant Generosity
Live Free — from “Giving” Magazine 2015
Celebrate the Gift
Celebrate the Faith
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I’m often asked “Which one of these campaigns is the best?” My answer is always “It depends! What are the gifts and needs of your congregation?” As you answer the questions on the facing page (pg. 5) to help you decide which model to choose, you will see there isn’t one campaign that is “THE BEST!”

If I were serving as a stewardship leader or local church pastor, there are a couple of resources I would make sure I was familiar with no matter what the size or location of the congregation:

- **Giving Magazine** is an excellent resource with a different style and type of financial giving campaign included each year. Order it every year for great year-round ideas! If you like to eat together, see “Dessert First” on pg. 16. There is a Giving Magazine locator at the bottom of pg. 25 to help you find all current volumes.

- **Change the World** is a brand-new program developed here in Wisconsin by Jean Nicholas and Jason Moore (pg. 15). It emphasizes growth in discipleship through stages of stewardship. **Enough** by Adam Hamilton is an easy-to-read book and the stewardship campaign does an excellent job of targeting different types of givers. The study books can be used by a variety of groups in the church, from youth and young adults through seniors. Read about it on pg. 24.

- **Earn, Save, Give** on pg. 24 and **Committed to Christ** on pg. 25 are two of the newest campaigns. **Earn, Save, Give** is new this year incorporating a study of Wesley’s sermon on money. The campaign is flexible, providing a variety of options as you choose the best way to invite your congregation to give. For a wholistic approach to stewardship explore the six weeks of **Committed to Christ** with a focus on six steps to a generous life: Prayer, Bible Reading, Worship, Witness, Financial Giving and Service.

- **Celebrate the Faith** (pg. 13) by Leo Waynick and **Quill** (pg. 21) have been serving congregations well for many years. **Celebrate the Faith** incorporates celebration cards to recognize positive aspects of your church’s ministry and **Quill** reaches out to members with personal letters written by several individual church leaders.

Blessings as you discover at least one method that will help your congregation grow in generosity as we join Bishop Jung in Imagining Wisconsin Anew.
How does a church go about selecting a stewardship campaign?

Congratulations! You’ve come to the right place to start!

There are different types of commitment campaigns. The campaigns listed here are organized into categories according to the style of approach used. Many of the campaigns are tricky to classify, so don’t automatically rule out an option because it is in a certain category! Begin by considering the following questions:

- What approach will people respond to best at this time?
- How will this help people be open to growing in their generosity?
- How does the congregation enjoy spending time together - in a large group or small group discussions or meetings? Do you prefer mailings?
- What types of campaigns have you done lately?
- What is the budget and amount of time to be spent on a campaign?
- What spiritual needs does the congregation have in regards to giving? Has there been discussion about tithing?
- Does the congregation consist of mostly life-long members or newer Christians?
- What about missions? What are the educational goals for the program? What are the goals for interpreting the ministries of your congregation?

We suggest the Pastor and a member of the stewardship committee start by narrowing the initial selection to about 2 to 6 options from this brochure. A committee could make the final decision. Folks are invited to come to the Foundation office to PREVIEW the materials in our Stewardship Resource Room. Please call 1-888-903-9863 for an appointment!

PS: If you can’t travel to us in Sun Prairie to visit our Resource Room, call and ask for a comparison chart of the 2-6 campaigns you’re considering.
**Commitment Sunday Programs**

**ABUNDANT JOY—OVERFLOWING GENEROSITY**
“Giving” Magazine 2012—volume 14

The center section of the “GIVING” magazine gives practical ideas for using the theme "Abundant Joy—Overflowing Generosity" - for a four Sunday emphasis on four ways of giving:

- Giving of our Day—giving God a portion of the day through devotional prayer
- Giving the Sabbath—giving the Sabbath to God in worship
- Giving our Spiritual Gifts—so that we may be blessed, bless others, and bless the ministry of the church with our spiritual gifts
- Honoring God with our use of money—learning, understanding and deciding how to use money in a God-honoring way. The fourth Sunday has an opportunity to present a commitment card.

Theme materials such as bulletin inserts and covers, commitment cards, poster, and logo are available. The Companion Guide has detailed timelines (including a simplified timeline for small congregations), Bible studies, sermon suggestions, more letters and worship aids.

Cost: $14.99 Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center [www.stewardshipresources.org](http://www.stewardshipresources.org) or call 1-855-278-4372.

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**Fearless Generosity**
“Giving” Magazine 2014 – volume 16

“Fearless Generosity" is based on Ephesians 3:20-21. The 4 Sunday stewardship program explores how individuals and faith communities are called to live, serve, sow, and give fearlessly and faithfully.

Giving Magazine is packed with resources to support stewardship in the local church. Articles explore the intersection of faith and giving, and offer practical information on Christian stewardship for all generations. Included is a center section that outlines a simple response method for an annual congregational stewardship emphasis which can be used "as is" or supplemented with additional theme materials and companion resources. The "Fearless Generosity" digital Companion Resource provides additional worship and study materials.

Cost: $14.99 Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center [www.stewardshipresources.org](http://www.stewardshipresources.org) or call 1-855-278-4372.
**FIRST**  
by Michael Slaughter

What happens when we truly put God First in all aspects of our lives? In a culture guided chiefly by shiny, life-promising distractions, “enough” seems elusive and keeps us indebted to that next source of satisfaction.

In *First: Putting God First in Living and Giving*, pastor and author Mike Slaughter conducts a four-week all-church stewardship program to help participants reassess priorities and create a culture and a lifestyle of giving with a special emphasis on missions. To help parents educate and model generosity for their kids, *First* includes components for children and youth that help families explore financial decisions together. Sessions include: Naming Our Idols; Money, Work, and Debt; Earn—Save—Give; and Heart Giving.


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**DECISIONS AT THE CROSSROADS**  
by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

An ideal program to use during Lent, *Decisions at the Crossroads* is a 10 week stewardship program that focuses on the crossroads that Jesus faced on his journey to the cross and the decisions we face at the crossroads to faithful discipleship.

Included is a prayer emphasis. Financial commitments are received on “Decisions at the Crossroads” Sunday.

Cost: $45. Includes sample of all theme materials, a program manual, sample letters, graphics and permission to copy for one year. Available from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 888-903-9863; 750 Windsor St, Ste 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.
THE NEW CONSECRATION SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM  
By Herb Miller

_New Consecration Sunday_ approaches financing the ministries of your congregation by focusing on the question, "What is God calling me to give?" rather than, "What does the church need in order to pay its bills?"

The campaign involves leadership from an outside leader/preacher at a special Leadership Event for church council members and other church leaders, the Consecration Sunday worship service, and the Celebration Meal. Members of the congregation are recruited to share their testimonies on why it’s important to them to give to Christ through the Church and how it impacts their life of faith. The guidebook includes sample letters to be used in the program, a calendar of events and mailings, instructions for each sub-committee or work area, a step chart and a sample Estimate of Giving card. The program book includes a CD with reproducible items, a Power Point, and an audio introduction for the Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, or Church Council. It also includes the Guest Leader Guide.

Cost: $23.49 for the _New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program_ Kit with Guest Leader Guide & CD Rom from [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) or 1-800-672-1789. Purchase one copy of the complete program guide and additional copies of the New Consecration Sunday Team Member Manual for members of the committee at $9 each, plus $11 for 100 Consecration Sunday Estimate of Giving Cards. Consider $250-$300 Honorarium for Guest Leader plus travel, mailing costs and catered Celebration Meal.

THE GROW ONE SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ONLINE  
By Herb Miller

This is an approach to Consecration Sunday that does not require an outside leader or a “celebration luncheon.” It can be a good follow-up to the _New Consecration Sunday_ program. It is based on the need of the giver to give. It is also especially valuable in churches that have never conducted an annual stewardship program or churches whose unpleasant experience with an ineffective stewardship model in past years prejudiced them against conducting any kind of financial stewardship program.

Cost: $10.50/download or e-book from [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) or call 1-800-672-1789. Plus $11 for 100 Consecration Sunday Estimate of Giving Cards.
MAKE IT SIMPLE
by the ELCA

Is the current economic situation moving you to look more closely at simplicity and generosity? Are you looking for ways to teach children, youth and young adults about being good stewards? Did the financial response method you used last year yield diminishing returns? If so, this new on-line resource is designed for you. From the ELCA, this creative and practical resource begins by looking at God's abundant blessings, faces the truth that simplicity and generosity are not easy, invites each person to look beyond oneself to make a difference in the world, and helps determine how to care for God's gift of enough.

From congregational, small group and household learning events, to children's and youth activities, Make It Simple provides tools to engage all age groups. A series of nine video segments reveal the personal witness of Christians trying to live simply, be generous and serve God. Three different response methods are offered: Commitment Sunday, Congregational Meal and Small Group Gatherings. Each includes an introduction, leadership roles, calendar, sample materials and suggestions for using the video clips.

Cost: $24.99 from Resources.ELCA.org Phone: 800-638-3522 ext 2580.

SAINTS ALIVE! LIVING GENEROUSLY
"Giving" Magazine 2011—volume 13

The center section of the "GIVING" magazine gives practical ideas for using the theme "Saints Alive! Living Generously" for a 4-6 week emphasis that uses stories, volunteer opportunities, and visual media to connect people with ministries and programs. Focus on "growing" people who give generously as they respond with gratitude for the immeasurable blessings God pours into their lives. Sample letters and a timeline for planning and implementation of the program are included. Companion guide has detailed timeline, Bible studies, sermon suggestions, more letters and worship aids.

Cost: $14.99 Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center www.stewardshipresources.org or call 1-855-278-4372.
BLESS BE THE LORD GOD
"Giving" Magazine 2008 –volume 10

Blessed Be the Lord God strengthens the concept of the offering as an act of worship by inviting congregations to meditate on the biblical songs of Advent as they discern their individual and household giving for the following year. This program focuses on Advent songs to bless God for the gift of Jesus Christ, and also on restoring our response to that great gift. As the letter of invitation puts it, "generous and increased financial gifts throughout the next year combine with gifts of time and talent to raise a grand chorus of worship to God."

This four-week stewardship emphasis is based on four Scriptures that are songs of blessing: Hannah's Song, Mary's Song, Zechariah's Song, and The Angel's Song. The program suggests that planning begin three months ahead for this four-week giving emphasis. Supplemental worship and study materials are available from the Ecumenical Stewardship Center to use each week in small groups or Sunday school classes, including worship outlines, sermon ideas, group study materials and a new collection of songs from Ken Medema.

As with all of the "Giving" magazines the center section gives practical ideas for using the theme and the articles support the theme and process.

Cost: $14.99 Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center www.stewardshipresources.org or call 1-855-278-4372.

NEW LOVE, NEW MERCY
"Giving" Magazine 2009—volume 11

The 2009 theme “New Love, New Mercy” is a commitment Sunday format based on Lamentations 3:21-24. The three verses chosen bring to light that God’s mercies never come to an end—they are new every morning. Great is God’s faithfulness to us. There are four bulletin inserts that can be used as emphasis in print or from the pulpit. This program can be used anytime or as a Lenten series. It includes a variety of worship resources and tableaux or living pictures to add visual elements to worship. Leaders may also order Bible study materials based on the theme.

Cost: $14.99 Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center www.stewardshipresources.org or call 1-855-278-4372.
A WORLD OF POSSIBILITY
PLANNING YOUR LIFE AROUND THE KINGDOM
GOD REBUILDS
CYCLE OF VICTORIOUS GIVING
ONE FAMILY
LOVING GOD, LOVING EACH OTHER
LORDSHIP LIVING: GOD PROVIDES
THE GENEROSITY FACTOR

EIGHT separate Stewardship Month resource kits from Stan Toler and Stewardship Ministries. Simple, clear, and inexpensive. Many are available in SPANISH! Each four week campaign is similar in its design. They each come with a CD-Rom and a DVD. Each includes four sermons with coordinated handouts, bulletin inserts, PowerPoint presentations, letters, Bible lessons for children, youth and adults, along with video testimonies and other materials. Each campaign is intended to assist in casting the vision for the church and should be coordinated with the presentation of the annual budget or report. Cost: Some are FREE and some are $7.00 for shipping and handling. Available from Church of the Nazarene 913-577-0500 or at www.nazarene.org/stewardship. Search for Stewardship Month Resource Kit.
EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY
By Michael Reeves and Jennifer Tyler

Extravagant Generosity is built on Bishop Robert Schnase’s groundbreaking book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. The objective is to change the culture in your church from fund raising to generosity as a core value of discipleship.

A guidebook for leaders covers all aspects of the campaign, from detailed plans for each of the four Sunday services to marketing materials like flyers and postcards. E-mail messages and letters designed to be sent to specific groups within the congregation are also available on the CD-ROM. A small-group leader’s guide to host Sunday school and other small groups during the program using the devotional book is available along with a DVD with video segments for four group-study sessions and short clips for use in worship. Sermon outlines, timelines and checklists, and PowerPoint slides are also included.

A book of devotions, Practicing Extravagant Generosity, designed to be distributed to all the members of the congregation, leads them through the Scriptures covered in each of the four weeks and encourages them to understand financial discipleship in terms of their own mission to build God’s kingdom.

Cost: $55.99 or less for Program Kit, $6.79 or less for devotion book. Available through www.Cokesbury.com or 1-800-672-1789.

LIVE FREE
“Giving” Magazine 2015 – volume 17

It is hard for people to grow as generous giver’s to God’s work when they are bound up in debt, in claiming upscale images, or in identifying with their asset worth. Likewise, anxiety over having enough to get by financially or always wanting more, can keep all of us from being free to “take hold of life that really is life” (1 Timothy 6:19).

This Live Free financial commitment program, based on Galatians 5:1 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19, offers four weeks of worship culminating in special meal events, during which we remember how rich we already are and increasingly can be in good works, in generosity, and in being ready to share. We encourage on another to let go of the uncertainty and commit ourselves to God, who gives us the grace to Live Free.

Cost: $14.99 Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center www.stewardshipresources.org or call 1-855-278-4372.
CELEBRATE THE GIFT
by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

This program is designed to unite your congregation through a Prayer Connection in which households pray for five other households at least once a week for four weeks.

These members covenant to pray for the concerns and spiritual growth of themselves, the rest of the congregation and the success of the program. On the five Sundays prior to “Celebrate the Gift” Sunday, special cards are used in the worship service to help members celebrate what they enjoy and appreciate about the church.

Cost: $45. Includes sample of all theme materials, a program manual, permission to copy for one year, CD of sample letters and graphics. Available from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 888-903-9863; 750 Windsor St, Ste 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

CELEBRATE THE FAITH
by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

This program uses Celebration Cards to celebrate the positive aspects of your church’s ministry. These are displayed for the congregation. Emphasis is on faith formation, challenging members to practice at least one of the suggested faith disciplines for a five week period. Faith disciplines are...worship in church regularly, meditate (creative silence) regularly, pray daily, fast (not for everyone), practice acts of hospitality, simplify ones lifestyle, read the Bible daily, practice generous living (list acts of generosity you’ve seen). Financial commitments are received on “Celebrate the Faith” Sunday.

Cost: $45. Includes sample of all theme materials, a program manual, permission to copy for one year, CD of sample letters and graphics. Available from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 888-903-9863; 750 Windsor St, Ste 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.
FOUND FAITHFUL IN LITTLE, WITH MUCH, WITH ALL
From “Giving” Magazine 2013—volume 15

This year's theme from the annual “Giving” magazine uplifts generous giving and faithful stewardship as transformational spiritual practices in a holistic context: in little, with much, and with all.

The center section of the magazine outlines a simple response method for an annual congregational stewardship 4 week emphasis which can be used "as is" or supplemented with additional theme materials and companion resources. Week 1: Called to be Faithful, Week 2: Faithful in Little, Week 3: Faithful with Much, Week 4: Faithful with All. Different colored cards are given to the congregation to answer a different question each week relating to the theme of the week.

As with all of the “Giving” magazines the center section gives practical ideas for using the theme and the articles support the theme and process.

Cost: $14.99 Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center www.stewardshipresources.org or call 1-855-278-4372.

Live Simply
From “Giving” Magazine 2016—volume 18

We experience change at a rapid rate. Along with change comes the pressure to upgrade our homes, cars, technology, possessions, education, vocations. At the same time, we are encouraged to economize or perhaps we are forced to consider doing so because of our circumstances. In this dichotomy, we long for a simpler way and a less demanding life.

God can help us with all this! We hear lots of talk, but we also want to hear God talk. As your congregation uses this Live Simply stewardship emphasis, listen for God’s voice above the clutter. The live Simply emphasis offers four weeks of worship focus, culminating with a simple meal of Stewardship Stew and a commitment Sunday.

Welcome to the “Change the World” financial stewardship worship series!

This began with a group of 40+ pastors and lay leaders from United Methodist Churches throughout Wisconsin who met for a Creative Worship and Stewardship Workshop led by Jason Moore of Midnight Oil Productions, Inc. and Rev. Jean Ehnert Nicholas of the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, Inc. in April 2016. Workshop participants responded to four major ideas and texts and shared ideas which have been incorporated into the finished product you have here.

We hope this will provide another tool for growing in our discipleship of giving as we acknowledge the various stages of giving many people take a journey through:

- Who me? I’ll take one step!
- What’s my Fair Share?
- How much should I give?
- How can I say thanks and leave a legacy?

Cost: Free of Charge
**DESSERT FIRST**

Celebrating God’s Blessings

A Stewardship Emphasis Involving Youth

From “Giving” Magazine 2001—volume 3

A favorite of the Foundation staff, *Dessert First* is fun and flexible. The congregation is invited to participate in developing a devotional booklet for the campaign which emphasizes giving to God first, trusting God to meet all our needs, and celebrating the joy of giving.

Then a packet is delivered to each household that includes the devotional booklet, a cover letter, a commitment card for each potential giver in the home, AND an appropriate number of special DESSERT servings. Some churches have made “dessert mix in a jar” to aid in flexibility. This is written to be a youth project, but can be delivered in many different ways. Ideas for children’s classes are included along with a three-person drama. Stewardship speakers are invited to share during worship. The program ends on Celebration Sunday followed by a dessert reception! Eat your dessert first!

As with all of the “Giving” magazines the center section gives practical ideas for using the theme and the articles support the theme and process.

Cost: $14.99 Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center [www.stewardshipresources.org](http://www.stewardshipresources.org) or call 1-855-278-4372. [www.stewardshipresources.org](http://www.stewardshipresources.org)

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**WE ARE FAMILY**

by C.S.S. Publishing Company

In this program you’ll create a three-part “Church Family Album” telling the story of your congregation’s past, present, and future. The 1st section celebrates your church’s history, identifying accomplishments and remembering those whose faithful stewardship through the years made them possible. The 2nd section features your current programs and ministries, and the 3rd section spotlights your church’s dreams and plans for the coming year and beyond. Copies of this album will carry Stewardship Response Cards and be circulated among church members during a two-week relay.

**Cost:** $94.95 Sample Packet (not returnable), which includes leader’s guide and samples of all materials. Available from [www.churchsupplier.com](http://www.churchsupplier.com) or 1-800-322-6203.

For Assistance call Jim Wells at the Foundation, 608-837-9582 or 888-903-9863.
**Multiply the Gift**

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

*Multiply the Gift*, based on Jesus’ parable of the coins in Matthew 25, emphasizes the importance of investing gifts from God. Symbolic coins are distributed for five weeks and the congregation is challenged to find ways to multiply these gifts. They each symbolize a different gift from God: the gospel, the church, our lives, society, and the earth. A devotional booklet is prepared for use during the 5 weeks. Small group gatherings are used to share the vision and budget information.

Download includes: Manual, 2 leaflets, inserts, letters, logos, estimate of giving cards and license to use for one year.

Cost: $45. Includes sample of all theme materials, a program manual, sample letters, graphics and permission to copy for one year. Available from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 888-903-9863; 750 Windsor St, Ste 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

**Every Member Visitation Programs**

**Together We Serve**

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

*Together We Serve...to make a difference* is a program that focuses on Christians making a difference in the areas where they serve. It sets stewardship in the context of vocation.

Members are recognized for their exemplary ministry and an invitation is given for all members to claim their ministry in the five Sundays of emphasis: Church, Home, World, Community, and Workplace.

Cost: $45. Includes sample of all theme materials, a program manual, sample letters, graphics and permission to copy for one year. Available from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 888-903-9863; 750 Windsor St, Ste 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.
COURAGE TO CARE
by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

This is a program where people are invited to commit themselves to at least one act of caring. Visitation teams share the program with members in their homes. Members are invited to write cards to those who have shown a caring spirit to them. The question in this program isn’t “are we giving all we can?” but “are we caring all we can?”

Emphasis is on Six Principles for Caring: 1) Those who care listen, 2) Those who care are non-judgmental, 3) Those who care place no conditions, 4) Those who care do so without expectation of return, 5) Those who care do not seek recognition 6) Those who care discern the care that is needed.

Cost: $45. Includes sample of all theme materials, a program manual, sample letters, graphics and permission to copy for one year. Available from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 888-903-9863; 750 Windsor St, Ste 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

Year Round Programs

THINK GREATER!

“How truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12 Think Greater!

How does our faith result in greater living, greater giving, and greater loving? In what ways does being Christian propel us to great works in the name of Jesus Christ? What are the possibilities for “greater works” we can strive for? We do good works—but what happens when we raise the bar to GREAT works?

Think Greater! is a six-week stewardship emphasis for the local church. Materials include a full instruction manual, letter templates, commitment cards, bulletin inserts, worship helps, small group discussion guides for all ages and across a variety of topics, a Wesleyan devotional, instructions for a Money Autobiography, narrative budget samples, as well as banner, button, and poster designs.

This was written by members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference for the use of local congregations.

Cost: Free—Print out your own materials from http://www.wisconsinumc.org/resources/campaigns/think-greater

For Assistance call Jim Wells at the Foundation, 608-837-9582 or 888-903-9863
NEW BEGINNINGS: MY OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING
By Paul Wilkes

My Opportunity for Giving creates an "attitude of gratitude" by carefully leading members through a thoughtful consideration of the time, talent, and treasure they have been given by God. This 6 week program begins with a Gratitude Dinner. An “Annual Report” is handed out, telling both of church accomplishments and church dreams. The next 3 weeks involve members in a focused self-evaluation during worship or at another gathering to help them reflect on how they spend their time, their talents, and their treasure. Adult and youth versions of these forms are provided. In Week 4 a Commitment Sunday service is held. Between Week 4 and Week 5, a thank you phone call is made to everyone who has pledged and a general report is given verbally during worship. A video, for congregational viewing, has four sections on the Power of Stewardship. Includes a money back guarantee of substantial increases in stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

Cost $30. Available from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 888-903-9863; 750 Windsor St, Ste 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

STEWARDSHIP IN THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATION
by Clark Hargus

This program emphasizes small group Bible Study for all members and provides a series of questions to be asked in worship that might be used for long-range planning. Following a period of time for Bible Studies, three Sundays are used for encouraging members to be Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving. Every member is involved at some level in Bible Study or in Worship Response questions. The celebration at the end includes a compilation of all the worship responses gathered during the three weeks prior to the Fellowship Dinner. There are clear, step-by-step guidelines for the Fellowship Dinner. A holistic commitment card outline invites persons to commit their prayers, presence, gifts, and service. We suggest that churches include a narrative budget and a chart on percentage giving as they invite members to grow in their commitment and stewardship. While this program is designed specifically for small membership congregations, it can be easily adapted and used in churches of every size.

**GO AND SEE**
Mission Festival
From “Giving” Magazine 2004—volume 6

*Go and See* is designed to assist your congregation in receiving financial commitments for the ministry and mission of the congregation while illustrating and celebrating their ministry and mission in a festival setting. *Go and See* is inspired by the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Through the celebration of a mission festival it seeks to encourage a sense of discovery and wonder—discovery of the gifts God has given and wonder at the joy and increase the Holy Spirit brings when those gifts are offered in service to a world hungry for the good news of Jesus Christ.

The mission festival can be a one-time presentation with a few well-designed displays and handouts or a full-blown celebration with food booths and live music. The program guide suggests planning at least 10 weeks before the actual festival weekend. A Bible study is provided to be used 2-3 weeks ahead of festival weekend. Sample letters of invitation, worship resources, church school activities, a sample commitment card and a weekly giving guide are also included.

Cost: $9.99 Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center www.stewardshipresources.org or call 1-855-278-4372. www.stewardshipresources.org
Letter and Direct Mail Programs

**QUILL**
by Gary Arnold and Quill, Inc.

Quill believes we all give more generously when personally invited to do so by a peer. A few carefully selected good giving members hand write letters to other members. The letter author indicates his/her present pledge amount and the amount to which he/she is increasing his/her giving. The gist of the letter is simply: “Would you like to join me/us so we can invite others to greater generosity?” The basic motivation behind QUILL is not the need of the church to have more money, but the need to understand money as a spiritual resource, the need to view giving as a personal matter, not a group responsibility, the need to do what Jesus did, and the need to eliminate the taboo of speaking of one’s personal giving. Talk to Rev. Michael Morning for more information on how his church used this program.


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Book Study or Small Group Programs

**33 DAYS OF STEWARDSHIP**
by Dave Southerland and Kirk Nowery

Based on the book, *The 33 Laws of Stewardship*, by Dave Southerland and Kirk Nowery, this unique program is a master plan to mobilize Christians for purposeful stewardship. *33 Days of Stewardship* motivates believers to be faithful, committed stewards. This includes an insightful book on stewardship, a day-by-day discovery guide, and a comprehensive manual. The manual contains pastoral letters, inspiring sermons and theme-specific lessons for adults and youth. There are also bulletin inserts, posters, commitment cards - all designed to culminate in a day of commitment by the entire church body.

**Cost:** $7 per giving unit Available from [www.spire-resources.com](http://www.spire-resources.com) or 1-800-992-3060.
TREASURE
Jacob Armstrong

Whether you are in plenty or in want, money has a direct connection to your values, your faith and the health of your relationships. It’s no wonder that in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presented a radical message about our “treasure” and our hearts. In this four-week stewardship program and church wide study, Jacob Armstrong uses Matthew 6 to reexamine how we look at our finances and possessions, through the counter-culture teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Sessions include (1) Where is your treasure?, (2) The Problem with Two Masters, (3) How to Give, and (4) Don’t Worry ‘bout a Thing. The kit includes one each of the Daily Readings, the DVD, and the Program Guide and Flash Drive.


TRANSFORMED GIVING
By John Ed Mathison

Transformed Giving is a step-by-step stewardship program that engages your entire congregation in reading John Ed Mathison’s forty-day study book, Treasures of the Transformed Life, and applying its wisdom to all areas of life, with expanded giving as a result. This involves six weeks of a synchronized church-wide focus on spiritual growth and emphasizes increased giving as a response to deepening faith. Congregations of any size can use this program. The Commitment Card is used at the culminating Commitment Sunday.

Every member participating in the study will need a copy of Treasures of the Transformed Life and the Participant’s Workbook. The Campaign Handbook makes it easy for your stewardship committee. It provides step-by-step instructions along with all the samples of all documentation needed to run a successful stewardship campaign. The Media Kit contains a DVD with video segments featuring John Ed Mathison talking with pastors about the blessings and challenges of running a successful campaign and the role they play as pastor. The second segment of the DVD is a conversation John Ed had with experienced Stewardship committee members and leaders. The final segment introduces John Ed’s way of including the themes in the worship setting.

COMMON HOPE, COMMON TRUST
From “Giving” Magazine 2006

The 2006 GIVING stewardship emphasis, "Common Hope, Common Trust," gathers God's people for food and friendship around a common table. Shared meals become occasions for sharing joys, anxieties, and stories. Healthy conversation about money with clergy, leadership, facilitators, and the congregation help build a sense of security of people in their own finances. Through focusing on the strengths a congregation already has, people experience giving with a new sense of freedom and celebrate as God leads them from darkness and fear into light and freedom. Nine steps are given to implement this program.

As with all of the “Giving” magazines the center section gives practical ideas for using the theme and the articles support the theme and process.

Cost: $14.99  Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center www.stewardshipresources.org or call 1-855-278-4372.

www.stewardshipresources.org

Live Generously
From “Giving” Magazine 2017—volume 19

The Live Generously Congregational Financial Response combines small group gatherings and a Commitment Sunday. A small group gatherings is conducive to discussion and personal sharing. Meeting in small groups allows congregational members an opportunity to develop relationships with one another and provides a relaxed, informal atmosphere to talk about faith and becoming a better steward. Attendees will also understand more fully their connection to their faith community and their ability to have a positive impact on mission and ministry.

The gatherings allow for Bible study, mission interpretation and sharing dreams for the future. Participants will be asked to consider a financial commitment that they will present during worship on Commitment Sunday. Every member of the congregation will be invited to participate in a small group meeting.

Cost: $14.99  Theme materials are available, Starter Kits are $29.99. Ecumenical Stewardship Center www.stewardshipresources.org or call 1-855-278-4372.
**EARN. SAVE. GIVE.**

Wesley’s Simple Rules for Money  
By James A. Harnish

*Earn. Save. Give.: Wesley’s Simple Rules for Money* is a four-week church financial giving campaign rooted in John Wesley’s classic sermon, “The Use of Money.” Like much of Wesley’s writing, this campaign is both spiritual and practical. Not only does it shift the perspective on stewardship from merely raising funds to deepening one’s discipleship, but it offers a liberating word about financial freedom. It neither demonizes the earning of money nor disparages the saving of money. Rather, it encourages both earning and saving as a means to generous giving, and it stresses the joy of helping to build God’s kingdom.

This campaign is customizable to your congregation’s context, with flexible activities you can choose to supplement the overall campaign. These activities include options for:

- A “big event” similar to Herb Miller’s *Consecration Sunday* program
- Small group studies to encourage relationship building and in-depth learning
- Devotions to cultivate spiritual disciplines for individuals or families

Cost: Program Guide Flash Drive or Download $28, DVD $32, Book $10 or less from www.cokesbury.com or 1-800-672-1789. Also available in large print.

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**ENOUGH: STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM GUIDE**

Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity  
By Adam Hamilton

With *Enough: Stewardship Program Guide*, Adam Hamilton offers a simple campaign that will transform how the church and individuals view the role of money in connection with their life’s purpose and the positive impact that transformation will have on the world. This program, based on Hamilton’s companion book, *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*, ($6.50 at Cokesbury) is designed for church-wide and small-group studies. Leaders will be equipped with a campaign timeline, sample communication pieces, sermon series notes, and artwork for PowerPoint and signage. Very well written program that is easy to follow.

Cost: $19.99 or less from www.cokesbury.com or 1-800-672-1789. Also available as an e-book.

For Assistance call Jim Wells at the Foundation, 608-837-9582 or 888-903-9863
COMMITTED TO CHRIST
by Bob Crossman

Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life is a seven-week program that presents giving as a lifelong journey in Christian discipleship. The six steps explore ways to a generous life: Prayer, Bible Reading, Worship, Witness, Financial Giving, and Service.

With each step, through worship, sermons, and small group activities, the congregation is asked to assess their own level of commitment and to consider increasing that commitment by one step. There are commitment cards for each emphasis. Equal weight is placed on each step, clearly communicating that this program is not simply about money, but rather cultivating a thankful heart that will lead us to give more than we can ever imagine.

The program guide lays out the basic plans for the campaign, including schedules, team roles, sermon illustrations, worship helps, letters, and commitment cards. Art, schedules, and task lists are found on the accompanying CD ROM. Suggestions are provided for expanding the program to 12 weeks, 7 months, or 12 months. Ideas for small attendance churches and year two are provided.

Cost: $63.99 or less for complete kit, $31.99 for program guide and CD. Also available is a 40 day devotional, Adult readings, tweets and posts, intro book, videos and small group leader’s guide. Available from www.Cokesbury.com or 1-800-672-1789.

GIVING MAGAZINE LOCATOR
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Stewardship Challenge Grant

The WUMF has created a Stewardship Challenge Grant as a tool for churches to use to help develop an appropriate, intentional stewardship plan. By providing a **cash incentive**, the Stewardship Challenge Grant is intended to **encourage** churches to design a comprehensive stewardship program to help achieve the goals of the congregation in the area of stewardship. It is also intended to **reward** you for your work in this area.

There are four different categories of tasks with several options in each category. **You choose** which of the tasks you will complete and indicate those on the application form. Some of the activities are required. **You tell us** how you will document the activities you’ve chosen to do. After completing and evaluating the tasks you send us your final report. There is no designated start date to this program.

After your application and plan are submitted to the WUMF you will receive half of the grant money (the encouragement part!) When the final report has been received and approved, the other half of the money will be sent (the reward part!) Levels of grants are $400, $500, or $600. You may apply for three years and need to show growth throughout.

To see the full grant information go to [WUMF.org](http://WUMF.org) and click on Stewardship, then Stewardship Grant. For more information call the WUMF at 888-903-9863.