

Generosity Rising: Lead a Stewardship Revolution

My Personal Generosity Journal



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We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident...

That all people are created in the image of a loving, giving, and generous God. We believe real life, true liberty, and eternal joy are only realized when we live lives of abundant generosity and sacrificial love.

What Do We Believe?

Do I believe in this big picture of stewardship and generosity?

_____ YES _____ No _____ Not really sure

How does what I believe about the big picture influence how I live and teach stewardship and generosity?

Have I ever experienced something similar to A.J. Jacobs, "As I gave away money, I think I may have felt God's pleasure"?

What do our stewardship practices tell us about what we believe as a church concerning stewardship and generosity?

Cultural VS. Functional Change

My Aspirations

The Cultural Challenges

The Functional Challenges

Facts on Giving

- Episcopalians give 3% to charities – 1.1% to religion
- Presbyterians give 1.8% to charities – 1.0% to religion
- Methodists give 1.6% to charities – 1.0% to religion
- Catholics give 1.5% to charities – .8% to religion

Patrick Rooney, *Religious Giving 2010*

What about giving in my church? Do I even know?

The Enemy

Stop and Reflect

How is the reality of the enemy reflected in my own life? What about the life of my people?

Leadership and the Dancing Man

Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “the biggest blocks to stewardship and generosity are the pastors and finance chairs”?



Stop and Reflect

We don't get up and dance because...

- I don't really believe the big picture.
- I have gotten up and no one followed.
- I have gotten up to dance and was ridiculed or beaten up.
- I don't get up and dance because I am embarrassed about my own giving.

Write down what you think about your own journey as a leader in generosity and stewardship.

What needs to change if I am going to get up and dance?

Recruiting Guidelines:

The Who

- A spirituality of gratitude
- A history of generosity
- Committed to Mission and Vision of the Church
- Tithe or Committed to Working Toward a Tithe
- Willing to Witness to the Joy of Giving

The How

- Gather Good Information
- Remind Them of the BIG Picture
- You are NOT recruiting people to raise the budget or ask people for money.
- Don't ask for volunteers.
- Never say, "Don't worry, it's not a big deal!"
- The Generosity Team (not stewardship committee)
- They will be resourced and trained

The What

- Study and grow as a team
- Plan a year round generosity program
- Regularly demonstrate and teach how money accomplishes the mission and vision of the church
- Regularly tell stories of changed lives
- Provide generosity teaching for all ages

Stop and Reflect

Who typically serves on my stewardship and finance teams? What are the type of people we usually look for? Do I consider their giving and their faith? If not, why not?

Do we have any Miss Charlottes? Can I dare ask them to serve on stewardship/generosity?

Leadership Covenant

We believe:

We are created in the image of a generous and loving God.

All we have comes from God.

God calls us to be generous.

We commit to:

Giving God the first portion.

Nurturing and deepening our spiritual relationship.

Working toward a tithe and, if possible, beyond a tithe.

We invite you to join us.

Do I want to be a revolutionary leader in generosity? What might prevent me from being a revolutionary leader in generosity?

If I can help, please feel free to contact me

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