

Behind the Scenes of Successful Stewardship

Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2023

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Steady and faithful giving depends on more than just a good Stewardship Campaign. It involves various “best practices” for congregations.

What is your definition of Stewardship?

Take advantage of a Stewardship Coach!
It's a collaborative experience!

Sure we talk about the Stewardship
Campaign, but it's a lot more.....

**What is your relationship with
money?**

**How did your family talk (or not talk)
about money as a child?**

What is your earliest memory of money?

How did your church talk about it?

Stewardship is Discipleship

Ways to live into this within a congregation, practices for spiritual growth:

- Devotions for Session and Committee meetings
- Devotions for Congregation
- Weekly email update with prayer and prayers for congregation
- Share spiritual journeys on Sundays
- Share from the pulpit and offering, cultivate a theology of generosity and abundance
- Other ideas?

Practical Practices make a difference:

Session and Elders:

- Job Description & Expectations
- Expectation for Session Meetings
- How to run a meeting and “staying in your lane.”
- Elder Orientation/training/retreats
- Session Focus Topic
- Book of Order: First Three Chapters on Foundation
- Session Ref: A Training Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w3tOiDJN-g>



Bringing unidentified and undefined numbers of opinions into Session discussion is not allowed.

Practical Financial Practices:

- Financial Policies on spending and accounting
- Job Description for Treasurer and expectations
- Tracking of pledges and gifts
- Policies behind gifts (*Junk for Jesus*)
- Endowments, policy behind them, who controls?
- Thank you notes
- **Who knows how gives?**
- Read a few good books on Church Finances and Stewardship! (Session and all church read)

Developing Health Relationships (Imago Dei)

Treating each other with dignity and respect.

- Within a culture of civic discord and contentious culture, we are called to give a different witness.
- There is already a lack of trust in institutions; people will no longer put up with unhealthy systems!
- Young people can smell conflict and dysfunction.
- If you don't handle conflict and/or bullies, you can forget about a strong stewardship campaign
- People “vote” with their checkbooks...

Adopt a Covenant of Conduct with Officers & the Congregation (and follow through):

- Preach on it, write about it, bring it up again
- 3 Steps of Healthy Communication for Churches
- PCUSA Guidelines for Ethical Behavior for Officers and Members
- Seeking to Be Faithful Document PCUSA
- What is a Healthy Church
- Tolerating Bad Behavior in Churches
- *When Sheep Attack* series by Dennis R. Maynard

Example Letter, a collaborative effort!

- One page, with Ordination Questions and PCUSA Ethical Guidelines for Officers
- Long process but worth it!

Date_____

Dear _____,

This letter is written in love and concern in respect to your conversations on *00/00/0000*. with Rev_____ and Elder_____. We did not respond immediately but have taken time for a thoughtful response.

We understand that there will be differences within a congregation about what Session decides. However, we expect differences to be handled in a respectful manner recognizing we are all created in the image of God.

This was not the case in either conversation where the tone and use of your words were aggressive, accusatory, and hostile. This is not acceptable behavior.

Again, we understand that there will be differences, but as an ordained Elder in the church, you broke a number of your ordination vows and veered away from the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Ordained Officers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). We have enclosed these materials for your review.

As a Session and congregation, we are called to strive to follow Scripture in how we treat one another following the many examples put forth for us:

- Colossians 3:12 “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”
- James 1:19 - 20. “As beloved children of God, let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.”

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we invite you to come to our next Session meeting on _____ 6:30pm, to address your concerns at the beginning of our meeting. Please _____ Clerk of Session, know if you accept this invitation at: email.

We write this in love and concern for you and our congregation,

Session Members and Moderator:

(List all the names of Session and Moderator)

Pastor Accountability and Job Review

Believe in your Mission

Believe in Leadership

**Trust your financial picture
and build accordingly ,**

Wrap Up

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