

Building a Year-round Stewardship Plan

Outline

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Opening Prayer

Almighty God, We pray that we might grow in faith, in discipleship, in leadership, and in generosity — in this hour and always. In every time and every season, make us mindful of your claim on our lives as we seek to be faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us. Inspire us to shape the ministry of the congregations that nurture each of us, so that your church might embody your generosity and serve your mission. Amen

Why Year-round Stewardship?

- To give focus to all aspects of stewardship
- To coordinate stewardship activities with the liturgical season and congregational calendar
- To reinforce the connection between stewardship and discipleship
- To coordinate stewardship activities and appeals

Two Types of Stewardship Calendars

- Thematic and programmatic calendar
- Stewardship planning template

Thematic and Programmatic Stewardship Calendar

- Highlights a monthly scriptural or liturgical theme
- Suggests individual and/or congregational activities related to the theme
- Uses categories that reinforce a holistic sense of stewardship

Thematic Stewardship Calendar: Example One

- From the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. Available online at: <http://www.dwtx.org/departments-ministries/stewardship/year-round-stewardship>
- Example of a monthly theme
- Monthly worksheets

Thematic Stewardship Calendar: Example Two

- From the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Available online at www.elca.org/stewardship

Advantages and Challenges

- Cultivates a holistic approach to stewardship
- Connects stewardship to spiritual growth and congregational life
- Lots of planning and coordination
- Start small
- Begin with what you already do

Stewardship Planning Template

- More focused on financial stewardship
- Gives emphasis to different aspects of stewardship and types of giving
- Coordinates stewardship activities, appeals and communications

Elements of a Comprehensive Stewardship Plan

- The three pillars of giving
- Special giving
- Stewardship education
- Acknowledgment and thank you system
- Stewardship of time and talents

Related Planning

- Preaching and worship
- Small groups and study
- Special events
- Mailings
- Financial statements
- Communications

Getting Started

- Start small
- Who needs to be involved in this type of planning?
- Some things don't need to be done every year
- Delegate and involve others

Other Resources

- *Year-round Congregational Stewardship Plan: The United Church of Canada* by Barbara Fullerton. www.united-church.ca/files/exploring/stewardship/stewardshipplan.rtf
- *Stewards in the Household of God: A Resource for Year-round Holistic Stewardship* by Doris R. Powell. Published by the United Church of Christ. Available for purchase at <http://www.ucc.org/stewardship/year-round-stewardship>

