

Stewardship: Not a season, but a reason

Adapted from Olanda Carr's presentation to Stewardship
Kaleidoscope

[Article](#) by Nancy Crowe for the Presbyterian Foundation

What if questions...

- Could stewardship be about abundance rather than scarcity?
- What if stewardship was a reason instead of a season?
- When cultivated as a joyous discipline, grateful giving is the church's theological antidote to the consumerism and materialism of our age.
- It's about how we live our lives and spend our money — all year long.
- Because hopefully we're grateful to God year-round.

A Generosity Team

- Re-think the language we use; the words we choose set the tone.
- Generosity teams should be composed of those that represent the actual ministry of the church, not just those who deal with finances.
- Stewardship, like music, is a form of worship and discipleship. All that we do is therefore focused on giving God the praise.
- To learn more about how Olanda Carr envisions a generosity team, read this article: <https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/creating-a-harmonious-stewardship-team/>

Telling the story

- A church's story can begin with what it does well in the community and world. What difference does it make with its members, in the community and even in the world?
- Consider an approach to storytelling that will not only raise awareness but invite people to engage in the church's ministry.
- Storytelling must also take different audiences into account. Find more than one way to tell the story.

About the budget

- A church's budget is not the "why" of stewardship but a byproduct.
- A narrative budget uses easy-to-read, descriptive terms to translate the numbers into a picture of the church's ministry and its impact.
- "Church members give to ministry because ministry matters," Carr said.

Stewardship Navigator

- The Presbyterian Foundation has a whole tool to help you increase the discipline of faithful stewardship within your congregation: <https://stewardshipnavigator.com>
- *“A simple tool that helps raise funds for your mission.”*
- *(Watch video at link above.)*

Included Tools

- Campaign calendar tool
- Step-by-step checklists
- Document templates
- Narrative budgets
- Planned giving

Presbyterian Foundation Toolbox

The Ministry toolbox was created with your ministry in mind. Browse through articles, bulletin inserts, leadership guides, and more to create a program for your congregation.

Annual Stewardship/
Generosity

Investments

Personal Financial
Planning

Planned Giving

Endowment

Forms and
Applications

Capital Campaigns

Special Major Gifts

Legacy Giving
Program

Pastors

Donors

All Tools

<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/toolkit/>

Partnering with Congregations

- The Presbyterian Foundation partners with congregations to help them gather and steward the funds they need for the mission and ministry God calls them to accomplish.
- Stewardship resources include themed materials, a monthly e-newsletter, and the annual Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference.
- Ministry Relations Officers (in regional offices across the country) work with pastors and church leaders to cultivate generosity and promote stewardship in congregations.
- The Foundation's online giving service is a secure and easy way for your church to accept contributions electronically.

<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/churches/>

Summary

- Generosity expressed through our stewardship is an essential part of our spiritual life as Christians
- Stewardship is a year-round conversation, not just meant to be addressed when it's time to pull together next year's budget
- There are lots of tools at your fingertips through the Presbyterian Foundation to help your congregation develop an amazing generosity focus