

EOORC Stewardship Report
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Things you should know about stewardship

If you want a Stewardship program, **Called to Be the Church: The Journey** is the perfect [resource](#) for you. It provides everything you need to get a congregational giving program off the ground: Step-by-step guides for a variety of methods. Worship liturgies, sermons, videos, and children's resources for most liturgical seasons, plus more. You can do this yourself, or with coaching and ongoing support.

In the world of Mission and Service the News is Not Good

Nationally compared to last year we are tracking lower by 12.5 percent lower in our gifts to Mission and Service (as of October 31st). In the EOORC, we are down 20% compared to last year, or \$140,000.

These numbers are understandable because all churches are struggling with budgets weakened by the effects on this long running pandemic. Attendance is down and so is the giving on Sunday morning. But our Mission and Service partners are also struggling with their budgets due to the increase of clients forced to turn to food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters as the price of food, gas and rent steadily rise. People who could just make on their salaries now need to be subsidized to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. Our Mission and Service partners depend on the Support Grants they get from our region. Please do what you can to keep Mission and Service in the minds and hearts of your members.

On the plus side, gifts to Ukraine, COVID appeals, and Gifts with Vision are all doing really well. Thank you so much for your generosity.

The Six Ts of Stewardship

This coming year the Stewardship Team will be spreading the word about the **Six Ts of Stewardship**. When people think of Stewardship a lot of times, they only think about money but there is so much more to being a good steward than money. Instead, stewardship is a way of living.

"There is nothing we have; nothing; that is not a gift. Everything we are and everything we have is founded in the loving generosity of the Creator. When we know this, not just in our minds but in the depths of our hearts, then life takes on a whole new meaning. Then we have a whole different perspective about our time or our talents or our treasure, our bodies, our minds, hearts – everything that we are and everything that we have – takes on a completely different perspective."

Bishop Carl A. Kemme bishop of the Diocese of Wichita in Kansas

So, what are the Six Ts of Stewardship? Most of us are familiar with the first three: Treasure, Time, Talent. But there are three others: - Tissue, Terrain and Testimony

Treasure simply means money. We all have our reasons for giving money to our churches and charities we are passionate about. We all have our own "Why I Give" story. Even if we don't think about it every time we give. The stewardship team members will be sharing their stories.

Time, we all know about the giving of our time or we would not be sitting here today. Volunteering is how churches are able to function and as Edward Everett said, *"I am only one but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still, I can do something."*

Talent does not just mean the people who can sing or play music, or draw or write it means as Leo Buscaglia said, *"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."*

Tissue can mean two things looking after ourselves physically and mentally but also promoting Blood, organ and tissue donations. *"Self-care is never a selfish act—it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer to others."* Parker Palmer

People who donate organs are blessed as they give others a second chance at life for others.

Terrain refers to the need to be good stewards of the environment. We should take good care of the earth by recycling and reducing consumption of resources. *"Our stewardship of the Earth is brief. We owe it to those who follow to keep that in perspective, to be responsible passengers along the way."*

George H. W. Bush

Testimony is not just telling our story of our relationship with God but also through our actions. As Jared Brock is quoted as saying *"God has written us a book, and now we have the opportunity to respond with our words and actions."*

In spring 2023 we will hold a Stewardship Workshop to discover that the **Six Ts of Stewardship** can work in your church and in your lives.

Team Members' Thoughts on Giving

Every month in the region's newsletter we will share the Stewardship Team members thoughts about each of the **Six Ts of Stewardship** starting with Treasure.

Paul Sales In today's world, we are constantly aware of the need for help in both local and far-flung places. By sharing my financial resources, I can support the people and organizations in these locations who are doing their best to make a difference in the lives of others.

Dave Charles Over the past twenty years I have been able to coach Church families through "Christian Financial Concepts" study series about managing their money. No other topic is mentioned more frequently in the bible than money. I have learned that God doesn't need my money as God gave me all I needed in the first place. It is all about obedience and being a good steward of the resources God has provided. My wife and I are fortunate in the financial blessings we have received. We are blessed to share generously with others especially via the United Church Mission and Service fund where we give about 50% of our annual donations. We find the United Church of Canada manages these resources well across a broad portfolio of needs with very little administrative costs. My favourite time of the week is when I share "Your Generosity Matters" during our worship services.

Ray LeBeau The message given at this morning's Sunday Worship Service was, *A Note of Thanks*. At the conclusion of the service, the Minister provided everyone with a piece of note paper and asked them to write down the things / blessings for which they were thankful. Because God has been very good to me, I know that I am going to need more than one small piece of note paper!

I looked in the Bible for a Scripture reading that encourages generosity. I settled on 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 which reads as follows:

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a

cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

I have so many God-given blessings for which I am truly thankful: a loving family, a home, a monthly income, friends, relatively good physical and mental health, eyes that can see, ears that can hear, a voice that can communicate, legs that take me from point A to point B, just to name a few. Everything I have was provided by God. God holds the right to all of it. When I consider everything I have, I am truly thankful and I want to do my best to please God by showing Him my thanks. I know there are many in our communities, and in the world, who cannot say they have all of these same things. So, the answer to 'why I give' is this: Sharing my many blessings with others, who may be in need, is my way of giving thanks and praise to the Lord. I know that God is pleased when I am a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7) and when I share my Treasure, Time, Talent, Tissue, Terrain and Testimony with others.

Charlotte Hoy I give so others may have help and hope.

Nancy Hazen I support the work of Mission and Service because they have a history of supporting the underdog.

Carolyn Ruda I know that when I give to Mission and Service it is put right to work because every effort makes a difference in someone's life. What United Churches do together none of us could achieve alone.

Because we give to Mission & Service:

- thousands of meals are served,
- unemployable people find new hope in work programs,
- and people in need of housing find places of shelter.

To just mention a few reasons to give. And never has the need been higher than it is right now.

When I was Mission and Service Support Person for M&O Conference, I was constantly inspired by our partners who are always searching for new ways to support those that come seeking help.

Their clients usually walk through the door feeling overwhelmingly isolated and rejected. Desperately needing the tender loving care our partners provide.

The United Church Women

The United Church Women after their amazing success with financially supporting Mission and Service with the project Women for Change Zambia in the last few years they are turning to a new project to support: **The Healing Fund**, which supports programs for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts. Many survivors name a need for mending, restoring, and celebrating—acknowledging a sense of loss, along with hope for rebuilding identity. Support for The Healing Fund is a step in living out the apologies the church has made to Indigenous peoples.

Advent/Christmas blessings to you all

“And the Word became flesh” John 1:14

Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. The only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love.

When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the gifts God has placed in our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts and we will know Christmas joy every day. Archdiocese of St. Boniface, Manitoba