

**Stewardship 101:**  
**A Conversation for Parish Leaders**

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbour. Be careful that you do not view your needy neighbour with hostility and give nothing; for your neighbour might cry to the Lord for help, and the guilt will be yours. Give liberally and ungrudgingly, and the Lord will bless you in all your work and all you undertake.

*Deuteronomy 15:7-11*

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

Money flows from mission, not the reverse. The congregations who do the best in church finances have a rich, full, abiding compassion for mission. They are motivated by a theology of service, not a theology of survival. Their compelling, driving spirit is one of striving, serving, loving mission.

*Kenneth Callahan,  
Congregational Development Teacher*

## **Stewardship Statistics and Definitions**

If people decide what to give to the church with no encouragement from the church,  
*they give an average of 1.5% of their income.*

If people are encouraged by their church to consider giving a portion of their income,  
*they give an average of 2.9% of their income.*

If people are encouraged to give a written pledge of what they will give to the church,  
*their give an average of 2% of their income.*

If the church preaches and teaches about stewardship of time, talent and treasure,  
*they give an average of 1.9% of their income*

If people are asked to prayerfully consider tithing 10% of their income,  
*they increase their offering by an average of 20%*

If a church encourages all of the above,  
*the people give an average of 4.6% of their income*

statistic by Eugene Grimm

### **On our Doorstep...**

*In 2005, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto found...*

- The average gift per identifiable giver was \$900
- The average gift represented 1.1% of gross income
- A gift of 2% of gross income per identifiable giver would cover the operating costs of every parish

**Stewardship:** Using the gifts God has given us in a loving, wise and holy manner in our lives. The gifts God has given us are not only money, but our time and talent as well.

**Offerings:** The money we habitually give to the church as part of the weekly collection, direct deposit, or by mail.

**Tithe:** The Old Testament law mandates that 10% of income should be given to the Lord to support the priests and ministry of the church.

**Proportionate Giving:** The Christian version of the tithe, in which people are encouraged to dedicate a portion of income, not necessarily 10%.

**Pledging:** The annual process in which church members are encouraged to declare in writing the amount they will donate for coming year.

**Planned Giving:** Methods of giving as alternatives to habitual offering. Such gifts include bequests in wills and gifts of stock, life insurance, or assets.

**Electronic Offering:** An alternative form of habitual offering in which your gift is automatically withdrawn from your account at your direction.

**Narrative Budget:** A budget in which the line items are grouped into categories and described in terms of their contribution to mission and ministry.

### **Core Elements of Parish Stewardship**

### **Time and Talent**

1. Encourage people to know and use their gifts in ministry to the benefit of the whole.
2. Encourage personal and group study of the Bible and prayer to grow the compassionate mission of the church.
3. Share and celebrate stories of giving and mission.

### **Treasure**

1. Parish leaders must understand every detail of their budget and explain it to people in terms of how their offerings result in ministry.
2. Parishes leaders must ensure that at least 70% of their general operating costs are covered by offerings, and that at least 10% of revenue is dedicated to outreach.
3. Parish leaders must develop and implement a plan for the financial health of their parish.

### **The Stewardship Challenge**

How will your parish put these tools to work to encourage faithful stewardship of time, talent and treasure?

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