



**FOR YOUR  
CONSIDERATION**  
February 2017

*“For Your Consideration”* is an occasional information piece about people in mission. Its purpose is to help connect people with other people as they fulfill their ministry. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute as appropriate for your congregational setting. Suggestions for future articles may be sent to:

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## STEWARDSHIP IDEAS

Here are some stewardship ideas for your congregation to consider as it seeks to improve its stewardship ministry.

### 1. **Identify, recruit, and train congregational stewardship leaders.**

Good stewardship does not occur naturally within the congregation. It is a skill, a gift, a talent that needs to be cultivated. What is your congregation doing to cultivate good steward leaders? Some ideas for you to consider:

- Gather leaders and invite them to study a specific stewardship book or resource together.
- Offer a stewardship forum/class in which participants learn what stewardship is and is not.
- Host a stewardship workshop at your congregation and invite neighboring congregations to attend.
- Who are the steward leaders in your congregation? What characteristics do they have?

### 2. **Teach people good personal financial management skills.**

Some congregations offer courses like the Financial Peace University to help their members better understand good personal financial management skills. What might your congregation do to help members to become better financial stewards?

### 3. **Establish guidelines and policies for and promote giving to memorial gifts, bequests, and endowment funds.**

A regional gift planner from the ELCA Foundation is available to come to your congregation at no cost to you to help you establish an endowment fund. For more information, contact Tim Urness at (800) 638-3522 or by email at [tim.urness@elca.org](mailto:tim.urness@elca.org)

### 4. **Help raise congregational “giving expectations”.**

On a regular basis, invite people to tithe or to consider “proportionate-giving”. Hold a congregation-wide “Try Tithing for a Month” emphasis. Ask them to participate more fully in congregational ministries in terms of their time, talents, and treasury.

### 5. **Encourage generosity.**

Provide people with the opportunity to give and allow them the privilege of contributing to specific ministries. Adopt a “Mission of the Month” for each month and invite people to contribute to those causes about which they feel passionate.

## Reflection Questions

1. What stewardship gifts do your congregational members have that they can share with others?
2. What do people need to know and/or learn in order to become better financial stewards?
3. How does your congregation encourage generosity among its people?