

Transformed Giving – Year-Round Stewardship

“For where your treasure is, there your heart is also.” –Jesus in Matthew 6:21

“As a form of ministry, fundraising is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick, or feeding the hungry.” –Henri Nouwen, “Spirituality of Fundraising”

“No money, no mission,” our council member taught me. If we are to faithfully carry out our mission as churches, we need the money to do it. The good news – our people are generous and want to make an impact for good in the world! Our task is to help them understand money, experience the joy of giving, and live lives of deep gratitude.

And, oh, to **ask for money** and to do it regularly. Then say thank you, early and often, and report back on the great work their investment is accomplishing in the world.

To do year-round stewardship, a monthly calendar is provided below. In addition to those items specific to each month, each monthly **Stewardship Team meeting** needs to be reviewing the following items:

- A. **Testimony/Witness/Stories of Impact:** Have someone at least once a month, if not weekly, get up in worship and share what they love about your church or the impact your congregation is having in the community.
- B. **Expressions of Gratitude:** How are we doing at saying thank you in as many ways as possible?
- C. **Social Media/Communications:** Are we getting our stories and thank yous out there through our newsletter, bulletin, Facebook, etc., channels?
- D. **Worship:**
 1. **Offering Invitation:** Is this clear and joyful and sharing stories of impact? Is it thanking people for all different kinds of giving (time, talent, treasure, etc.)?
 2. **Preaching Stewardship Almost Weekly:** Jesus talked about money & possessions second only to the reign of God.
 3. **Bulletin Inserts & Covers:** Are we using these to effectively offering thanksgiving and stories and mission connections?
 4. **Children:** How are we teaching financial stewardship to our children in worship through children’s messages and offerings?

In addition to the monthly calendar below, you may also want to have an Annual Stewardship Theme and Seasonal or Monthly Subthemes.

**Office of Philanthropy, Technology,
Identiv. & Communication (OPTIC)**

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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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Below is a **sample calendar** for Stewardship or Fund Development Teams to use year-round. It's imperative today that stewardship happens all year and not just in a month or two of a giving or pledge campaign. Take and **adapt this calendar** to your setting.

I also recognize that there's a lot here. I would expect very few committees to get all of this done each year. But that gives you something for next year! The **items in bold** are the necessary pieces to accomplish, in addition to the every month list on the previous page. I hesitate to even do that because these are the practical technical items – and they will only get you so far. A fuller approach like that outlined below will begin to instill the Culture of Generosity & Gratitude necessary in your congregation to grow giving and support.

JANUARY

Spiritual Growth:	Mission Clarity – Review Church Mission & Annual 3 Priorities
Ministry Spotlight:	Church Council/Board
Finance:	Year-end Statement with Story; Annual giving campaign thanks yous & follow-up calls
Outreach:	Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking
Environment:	Hazardous Materials
Event:	Annual Meeting; Year-end Statements, Calls, Thank you Notes

FEBRUARY

Spiritual Growth:	Simple Living; Kids & Money
Ministry Spotlight:	Music Ministries
Finance:	Review & enhance ways people can give: in-person, online, electronic
Outreach:	Soup Kitchen/Food Pantry
Environment:	Church Energy Use Assessment
Event:	Home Energy Assessment/Improvement Workshop

MARCH

Spiritual Growth:	Personal Finance Class for Church & Community
Ministry Spotlight:	Pastoral Care Ministries
Finance:	Review & schedule special offerings; conduct annual audit
Outreach:	Habitat for Humanity or local equivalent
Environment:	Relationships of Oppression & Poverty to Environmental Impacts
Event:	Personal Financial Management Seminar/Class

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APRIL

Spiritual Growth:	New Members' Class with Stewardship Education; Interfaith Work
Ministry Spotlight:	Fellowship/Hospitality/Coffee Ministries
Finance:	Quarterly Statement with Story; assign someone to schedule monthly or weekly people to share "I love this church because..."
Outreach:	Local environmental group, Outreach to those Imprisoned
Environment:	Earth Day/Sunday
Event:	Earth Day/Tree Planting/Stream Clean-up/Adopt-a-Road Clean-up

MAY

Spiritual Growth:	Attend or host a stewardship training event for staff & lay leaders
Ministry Spotlight:	Teachers & Educators (could be community-wide)
Finance:	Debt Management, Review Endowment & Policies
Outreach:	Disaster Relief
Environment:	Community/Home Gardening
Event:	Public Workers Celebration (educators, fire, police, elected officials, etc.)

JUNE

Spiritual Growth:	Time and Talent Survey
Ministry Spotlight:	Outreach/Missions Team
Finance:	Review Church Assets, Properties, and Maintenance; Assess need for capital campaign
Outreach:	Youth Missions
Environment:	Farmers Market, Buy Local
Event:	Wills, Estates, Trusts, & Planned Giving Workshop

JULY

Spiritual Growth:	White Privilege Curriculum, Sacred Conversations to End Racism
Ministry Spotlight:	Worship Leaders
Finance:	Quarterly Statement with Story, Establish or Review Brokerage Account for acceptance of Stock Gifts
Outreach:	Ministries to Elderly – visits, yardwork, fans/AC
Environment:	Water Conservation/Clean Water
Event:	Annual Church Picnic/Movie Night

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AUGUST

Spiritual Growth:	Sabbath
Ministry Spotlight:	Property & Grounds
Finance:	Assemble Annual Giving Campaign
Outreach:	Back to School Supplies
Environment:	Reduce/Reuse/Recycle
Event:	Free Garage Sale

SEPTEMBER

Spiritual Growth:	Peace & Justice
Ministry Spotlight:	Church Finance Team
Finance:	Annual Giving Campaign; Get Council/Board Pledges
Outreach:	Immigration
Environment:	Walking/Hiking/Exercise Program
Event:	Ministry & Mission Fair (internal ministries and community missions)

OCTOBER

Spiritual Growth:	End of Life Issues & Planned Giving
Ministry Spotlight:	Church Staff
Finance:	Quarterly Statement with Story; Build Narrative Budget
Outreach:	Our Churches Wider Mission – National & Conference UCC
Environment:	Animal Shelter, Pets to Nursing Homes & Homeless Shelters
Event:	Money Autobiography Workshop/Retreat (find a free one at www.faithandmoneynetwork.org); Retirement Planning Seminar

NOVEMBER

Spiritual Growth:	Practices of Gratitude
Ministry Spotlight:	All who give in any way!
Finance:	Annual Giving Campaign Wrap-up & Celebration
Outreach:	Homeless efforts in community
Environment:	Climate Change
Event:	Church or Community Thanksgiving Service

DECEMBER

Spiritual Growth:	Meditation & Silence
Ministry Spotlight:	Children's Ministry
Finance:	Encourage Year-end & Planned Gifts
Outreach:	Angel Tree
Environment:	
Event:	