

A 12-Month Plan for Stewardship In the Local United Methodist Church

Herb Mather

Components for 12-month plan

1. Personal Witness
2. Preaching
3. Telling the Stories
4. An Annual Emphasis

5. Tithing
6. Time and Talent
7. Planned Giving
8. Personal Financial Management

9. Budget Building and Management
10. Accounting and Reporting System

The ten components are divided into three groupings.

The first group (1-4) includes actions and programs.

*Number 5-8 are subject matters. Actions and programs are needed to
Communicate these subject matters.*

*The final two items (9-10) are procedural issues unlikely to increase giving.
However, without these systems in place, trust is diminished which will
result in lower giving.*

Settings

Examine each of the above components and explore the settings where each is most appropriate within each congregation or parish. Settings will vary depending on the size and “style” of the congregation. Settings may include (but are not limited to):

1. Worship Services
2. Children’s Classes and Groups
3. Youth Classes and Groups
4. Adult Classes and Groups
5. Confirmation Classes
6. Adult New Member Orientation/Formation Groups
7. United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men
8. Programs at Fellowship Dinners and Family Night Programs

A Model for a 12 Month (Year-Around) Emphasis Encouragement Toward Generosity

January

1. Send a letter written by pastor to all members. (See “Letters for all Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“What giving means to me.”
3. Develop Stewardship education goals for the year.
4. Prepare human-interest articles for church newsletter about what giving can accomplish in people’s lives.
5. Review information received from phone calls made to persons who pledged in previous years but have not this year.

March

1. Send a letter written by a member of the Committee of Finance to all members. (See “Letter for All Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“How my giving relates to the sacrificial gift of Jesus.”
3. Develop a task group to explore ways the offering can better reflect what we believe about giving.
4. Hold a new member information class on the relationship of giving to faith.
5. Send a quarterly statement of giving, along with testimonies and stories about how the money is used to help people.

May

1. Send a letter written by an older member to all members. (See “Letters for All Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“How my giving relates to the gifts of life.”
3. Select leaders for the giving campaign (if it is held in the fall).
4. Memorial Sunday – Encourage persons to draw up wills that express their faith commitments.

February

1. Send a letter written by a young adult woman to all members. (See “Letters for All Seasons”)
2. Lay Witness—“What giving means to me.”
3. Plan a mission festival/fair.
4. Develop bulletin boards that depict aspects of the church’s ministry. Assign responsibility for each board.
5. Arrange a phone conversation with a missionary related to your conference.
6. Articulate a vision for the ministry of the church (pastor).
7. Plan a “Managing Your Money” seminar for empty nesters.

April

1. Send a letter written by proportionate giver to all members. (See “Letters for Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“How my giving relates to the sacrificial gifts of Jesus.”
3. Review materials for the fall giving campaign.
4. Plan a “Communicating Healthy Money Values to Your Children” seminar for young adults.

June

1. Send a letter written by a schoolteacher or a social worker to all members, (See “Letters for All Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“How my giving relates to my spiritual growth.”
3. Invite a returned missionary or a person from another country to talk about her/his faith experience.
4. Assign a task group to plan a month of tithing emphasis at an appropriate time. Send a quarterly statement of giving, along with testimonies and stories about how the money is used to help people.

July

1. Send a letter to all members, written by someone who has been to a church-supported mission project. (See “Letters for All Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“How my giving connects faith and living.”
3. Hold special Sunday school sessions using stewardship education materials.
4. Meet with a local banker to explore offering the option of direct bank fund transfer as a method of giving.
5. Invite persons to consider the church in their estate plans.

September

1. Send a letter written by an enthusiastic layperson to all members. (See “Letters for All Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“How my giving relates to Matthew 25.”
3. Activate a giving campaign committee.
4. Publish a “giving chart” in the parish Newsletter. (See pages 72-73, “Don’t Shoot the Horse.”)
5. Send a quarterly statement of giving, along with testimonies and stories about how the money is used to help people.

November

1. Send a letter written by a farmer or gardener to all members. (See “Letter for All Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“How my giving relates to thankfulness.”
3. Celebrate Thanksgiving!
4. Celebrate a successful campaign.
5. Thank the people for their commitments To next year’s ministries.

August

1. Send a letter written by a youth to all members. (See “Letter for All Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“How my giving is an investment in what is important to me.”
3. Invite small groups to share their dreams for the church’s ministry. Provide a means of feedback.
4. Plan a “Managing Your Money” seminar for retirees.

October

1. Send a letter written by a Sunday school teacher to all members. (See “Letters for All Seasons”)
2. Lay witness—“How my giving relates to the ministry of our church.”
3. Follow through on giving campaign plans.
4. Order “Year-End Giving” brochures.

December

1. Send “Year-End Giving” brochure.
2. Send a letter written by a generous giver to all members. (See “Letter for All Seasons”)
3. Lay witness—“How my giving relates to The gifts of the magi and the gift of Jesus.”
4. Encourage year-end giving through tax-wise wise generosity.
5. Send a statement of giving early in the month, along with testimonies and stories of how the money is used to help people.