

Stewardship Life & Ministry Values

A Readiness Tool

Name: _____

Date: _____

Welcome!

Thank you for participating! This survey intends simply to help Christian leaders assess their personal understandings of Stewardship as it relates to their lives, to others' lives, and to the church as a whole.

There are no "right" or "wrong" answers. The survey will help you find out "where you are" and, it is hoped, challenge you to identify areas for future growth.

Instructions: Please assign a numerical value to each of the statements below with "1" representing strong disagreement and "5" representing strong agreement.

Value 1: Christians Trust in God's Abundance

- _____ The object of Christian Stewardship is to share what we own with others.
- _____ The earth has sufficient resources to provide enough for all.
- _____ I often feel anxious about whether I will have enough to "make ends meet."
- _____ God always provides enough for those who are faithful.
- _____ Most people are grateful for what they have.

- _____ Most people feel that they have earned what they have.
- _____ I usually end up giving more than I can really afford.

Value 2: The Bible and Tradition Give Us Guidance

- _____ Tithing is a firm expectation of all faithful Christians.
- _____ Tithing is an Old Testament concept that has nothing to do with the teachings of Jesus
- _____ The correct proportion to share varies with the abundance received.
- _____ Biblical teaching about stewardship appears in only a few important passages.
- _____ It is counterproductive to preach too often about stewardship.
- _____ Lutheran theology has very little to say specifically about stewardship.
- _____ Most people are already very well aware of what the scriptures say about stewardship.
- _____ Biblical teaching about stewardship is interwoven throughout the Bible.

Value 3: Stewardship Affects All Aspects of Life

- _____ When we talk about stewardship, we are referring only to the management of time, talent and treasure.
- _____ Concern about physical health, diet and exercise is secondary to the main point of stewardship
- _____ A theology of the cross implies that sometimes my family has to suffer for my faithful service.
- _____ If you don't have much money it is perfectly fine to give time and talent instead of money.
- _____ Taking care of my house and my yard is a distraction from time I need to spend on ministry.

_____ Honoring Sabbath time requires me to neglect the needs of my congregation.

_____ I regularly engage in conversation with congregation members about balancing life priorities.

Value 4: Stewardship Expresses Our Interconnectedness

_____ My stewardship decisions are between me and God; it is not anyone else's business.

_____ Good stewardship leads to greater levels of independence and self-sufficiency.

_____ I regularly feel supported and encouraged in my work by people outside my congregation.

_____ There is value in discussing stewardship issues openly with peers and colleagues.

_____ If the larger church consistently makes bad decisions, it is more faithful to support non-ELCA missions.

_____ Most people don't understand what they get in return for their mission support.

_____ I regularly preach and teach the story of how the church is working throughout the world.

Value 5: Christian Stewardship Engages Our Culture

_____ Community-based organizations are legitimate expressions of God's work in the world.

_____ In order to reach out to the world, the church must give people what they want.

_____ People are entitled to what they have earned.

_____ The economic well-being of all people often requires us to use up natural resources.

_____ Our congregation engages in practices that reflect a counter-cultural attitude about stewardship.

_____ Capitalist business interests stand in fundamental contradiction to the Gospel.

_____ We have initiated intentional efforts in our congregation to help people be less materialistic.

Values 6: Financial Health Is an Expression of Faith

_____ Money has very little to do with the development of my spiritual life.

_____ People who really love Jesus should not worry or think too much about money.

_____ Paying back my educational loans makes it impossible for me to be a good steward.

_____ Our congregation is actively engaged in helping people plan healthy financial lives.

_____ Most people would give more if their financial lives were more healthy and stable.

_____ It is healthier to talk with others about money than to keep our financial life a secret.

_____ I am personally involved in the budget and finance operations of my congregation.

After discussing this assessment with my stewardship mentor, I have decided to set the following goals for growth in the faithful stewardship of my life: