

Practical Ideas to Help Increase Stewardship

- Pastor must tithe, at a minimum, and testify specifically about it.
- Have high expectations and require them to be met for membership. Jesus loves a lot and expects a lot
- Have at least 10% of your membership involved in 'hands on' missions.
- Report accurately regarding amount expected. Always talk ministry when talking money. Tell changing life stories.
- Don't publish information in the bulletin – only mailings that go to members.
- Pastors must know about the giving of their members. Lay leaders should also know.
- Strongly encourage new members to attend regular on-going Christian financial planning classes. Create a new tradition. (Crown Ministries, Ron Blue, Dave Ramsey, Good Sense, Abundant Living are all good programs)
- Seek gifts from all 'three pockets': Annual, Capital, Planned (Estate).
- Enliven offering – Have staff or a layperson share a one-minute stewardship witness each week. Make the presentations 'personal'.
- Make it convenient to give: Electronic funds transfer, brokerage accounts, online.
- Who's leading the flock – bankers or stewards?
- Teach tithing as a benchmark to every new member.
- Missional budgets not line item budgets.
- Don't treat members equally. Tithers vs. 'welfare' religionists, builders vs. boomers.
- The pastor must build relationships (people give to people) with generous disciples. Know your major donor's dreams!
- Start saying thanks! Send 10 personal thank-you notes each week to individuals in your congregation.