

A Lens of Generosity

In the January 2008 United Church Stewardship Network Newsletter, the newly constituted Stewardship Development Advisory Committee offered a four-step practice to keep the church focused on generosity. Let us revisit it.

Four Steps ... Four Questions:

1. How have we seen God's gift to us?
2. How have we lived from gratitude and generosity?
3. How have we worked from an attitude of abundance?
4. How have we sensed God's grace?



Awakening and rising up
I will open my eyes to see
the gift of God for me this new day.

Living into the grace of God
which embraces me with compassion,

I pray
and I choose,

that gratitude and generosity will clothe me
and I will live into an attitude of abundance
delighting in the God of life.

Amen.

L. MacQueen

Websites and other resources

Share Save Spend

<http://www.sharesavespend.com/>

The Ecumenical Stewardship Centre

<http://www.stewardshipresources.org/>

Saints Alive! Living Generously - Giving Magazine and companion resources 2011

<http://www.stewardshipresources.org/>

Good \$ense - Willow Creek Association

<http://www.goodsenseministry.com/>

Stewardship of Life

<http://www.stewardshipoflife.org/>

Design Group International (faith and ministries section)

<http://www.designgroupinternational.com/>

Depth Perception—cultivating generosity for effective missions

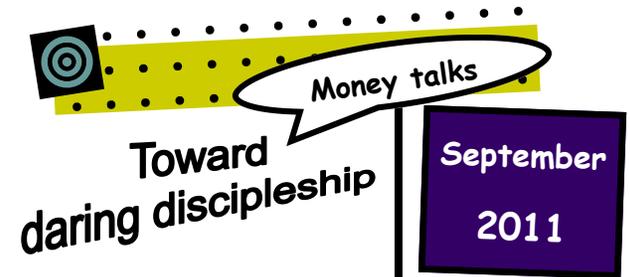
<http://www.designgroupinternational.com/>

Alban Institute

<http://www.alban.org/>

Money talks

Lorna MacQueen
Hamilton Conference Minister- Faith Formation for Discipleship
The United Church of Canada



Money talks



The word "philanthropy" is from the Greek and means "love of humanity." Every practicing Christian, therefore, is a philanthropist because we constantly strive to follow Christ's teaching to love one another. Using the gifts that God has given us wisely, faithfully, and as good stewards also reflects our love.

Doug Sanders, director
Major and Planned
Gifts- The United
Church of Canada

Philanthropy Issue 1,
May 2011

Stewardship
and Philanthropy
are about much more than
money...
but
they are also about money.





Money Talks ... our financial stewardship reflects our values

Not Your Parents Offering Plate:

A New Vision for Financial Stewardship

J. Clif Christopher
Abington, 2008

J. Clif Christopher is the founder of the Horizon Stewardship Company. He has pastored in churches ranging in size from 350 to 2000 members, where he has led six major building campaigns and eight capital campaigns. He has also acted as consultant in more than 150 churches transitioning through building, finance and church growth challenges.

Donors are saying to our churches today that you have to earn our gifts. No longer can you just preach a sermon on tithing and think the members will give 10 percent to the church... they will go home and give to the church 2 percent, the youth center 2 percent...and they will ask you... "do you not believe that Jesus is working in the youth center...?"
(p.7.)

Christopher helps us re-think both financial stewardship and the role and responsibility of the 'pastor' in congregational finances.



Old concepts of how people 'should understand' their financial commitment to the church are no longer realistic. He offers new insight to current understanding of congregant's relationships with money, church, faith and spirituality. The book suggests helpful 'questions to ask' and concrete 'things to do' as we are challenged to look anew at congregational practices.

Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity in the twenty-first century

Ecumenical Stewardship Center
2011 Leadership Seminar-Nov. 28-30, 2011
Sirata Beach Resort and Conf Center, St. Pete Beach, FL

Plenary Speakers

•Jill Schumann, President and CEO of Lutheran Services in America.

For eight years Jill was named by the *NonProfit Times* one of the Top 50 leaders of power and influence in the United States. She was appointed by President Obama to the White House Council for Community Solutions.

•Paul Johnson, Director of Neighbourhood Development Strategies for the City of Hamilton, Ontario and former Executive Director of Wesley Urban Ministries, an outreach ministry of the United Church of Canada.

Paul is responsible for developing strategies to align investments and activities to support healthy neighborhoods

•Carol F. Johnston, Associate Professor of Theology & Culture and Director of Lifelong Theological Education at Christian Theological Seminary.

Carol is the author of *The Wealth or Health of Nations: Transforming Capitalism From Within*, "And the Leaves of the Tree Are For the Healing of the Nations: Biblical and Theological Foundations for Ecojustice" and *Wellsprings of Generosity*.

Worship Leadership

•Ted & Company Theaterworks, authors of *What's So Funny About Money?*

They ask 'how do we spend our money? Our time? What does it mean to be a steward? Why is it so hard to talk about our own finances? How does our faith fit in to fiscal affairs? Is the banjo really necessary for the show?'

<https://www.stewardshipresources.org/Home.aspx>



Money Sanity Solutions:

linking money + meaning
Nathan Dungan

Share, Save, Spend, 2010

Nathan Dungan is the founder and president of *Share Save Spend*. For over twenty years he has worked with families to enable them to align their monetary decisions with their values. He has expertise in the area of money habits and 'the effects of consumer culture.'



What is money to me?

What things matter most to me in life?

Do my money choices reflect my values, not just those of my peers?

Have I invested the time it takes to examine what matters to me and then determine ways to live in a manner that matches my values?

(p. 27)

Here is a financial work-book and an interactive guide designed for families, that might be used in a variety of ways:

-Offered to families interested in, or in need of, learning more about their financial choices and economic life.

-Used as a work-book for small group financial counselling.

-Used with the Church Council, Committee of Stewards (or equivalent) as the congregation works to align its money with its values.