



Strengthening charitable causes to change the world through generosity

Stewardship First Steps

In many congregations, congregational culture stands in sharp opposition to best stewardship practices (i.e. talking about money or asking people to give). Stewardship First Steps gives pastoral leaders the tools and support needed to begin a journey towards a healthy stewardship culture. Small initial steps build confidence and momentum in the pastoral leader for more significant congregational steps in the future.

Format: Participants (normally pastoral leaders or synodically authorized ministers) will take part in six virtual sessions, each lasting one hour. Learning in each session will lead to practice in the congregation that will be reported to the cohort.

Process: Stewardship First Steps is intended as a beginning of a congregational journey led by the pastoral leader. It allows the congregation to have a positive experience of stewardship. This can lead to one of two steps the congregation can take for the fall. One is Beginning a Culture of Generosity, an annual appeal process. The other is the First Steps Special Appeal, which will guide congregations to identify and conduct a successful end of year special appeal.

Cost: \$350 per participant plus \$12 synodical processing fee

Session Topics:

JANUARY 28

- Overview of Stewardship Best Practices
- Adaptive Leadership
- Your personal financial story and stewardship (Money Autobiography)

February 11

- Reflections on Money Autobiographies
- Training in listening for and sharing stories of impact (God's work in the congregation)

FEBRUARY 25

- Participants report results of listening for and sharing stories of impact
- Connecting stories of impact to financial giving (thanking)
- Training in listening for congregational identity (important values and mission)
- Connecting congregational identity to financial giving (thanking)

MARCH 25

- Participants report results of listening for congregational identity
- Training in listening for and sharing stories of generosity

APRIL 22

- Participants report results of listening for and sharing stories of generosity
- Training in asking (focused on volunteering)

MAY 13

- Participants report results of asking
- Guiding the congregation to next steps
 - Beginning a Culture of Generosity or First Steps Special Appeal
 - Building a congregational team