



Moving ministries forward, *together.*

## **Four Stewardship Essentials**

Key components of a healthy stewardship ministry:

- Understanding of the theology of stewardship
- Ownership of mission and vision
- Engaged leadership
- Focus on stewardship as a way of life (whole life stewardship)

### **1. Theology of stewardship:**

- Has the church spent time talking about the theology of stewardship?
- Is the theology of stewardship ever published in the bulletin or in other places?
- Does the pastor talk about stewardship?
- Does your Christian education program discuss stewardship for children, young people, and adults?
- Is stewardship invited and celebrated through intentional offertory practices? (experiences of God's grace, acknowledging God as creator/owner of all, encouraging members to trust God as their sustainer, and inviting participation in God's work through the church?)

### **2. Ownership of mission and vision:**

- Is there a church mission and vision?
- Is the church intentional about identifying its assets to use to support its mission and vision?
- Does the church budget to its mission and vision?
- Does the church help members directly connect their stewardship with helping the church achieve its mission?

### **3. Engaged leadership:**

- Do church leaders agree on a definition of stewardship and/or a stewardship belief statement for the church and are they able to articulate that message effectively?\*
- Does the pastor feel comfortable talking about stewardship?
- Do the church boards, finance, and stewardship committees collaborate?
- Is the church leadership transparent around matters of financial stewardship?



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#### 4. Whole life stewardship:

- Does the church have an intentional plan for inviting gifts of time, talent, treasure, and testimony?
- Does the plan include acknowledging and showing thanksgiving for gifts?
- Is there an annual financial campaign?
- Is there an invitation to tithe?
- Does the church leadership use a narrative budget or other means to ensure the congregation understands how their financial gifts are used for ministry?
- Does the church regularly celebrate its stewardship?

#### \*Examples of stewardship belief statements:

"At \_\_\_\_\_ Moravian Church, we believe whatever resources we may have or accumulate are gifts of God's grace and goodness. We are called to serve God through them, and to help build the Kingdom of God with them, now and even beyond our lifetimes."

"As faithful stewards, we acknowledge our many God-given gifts and in gratitude, respond to the Gospel invitation to nurture and share those gifts with others."

"We believe everything we are and have belongs to God. We use our gifts to further God's mission in this world."

"At \_\_\_\_\_, we recognize God as creator and owner of all. We rejoice because God loves us so much, He entrusts us with His creation. And we grow in our relationship with Him as we discern, **What would God have us do with all He entrusts to us?**"

#### Next steps:

1. Develop a definition of stewardship and stewardship belief statement
2. Review of church mission and vision
3. Identify ways to teach, preach and reach people about stewardship throughout the year.
4. Focus on connection between gifts and ministry (What does our stewardship accomplish? What do our gifts of time, talent, treasure and testimony enable us to do as a congregation, in the community, in the world?)