

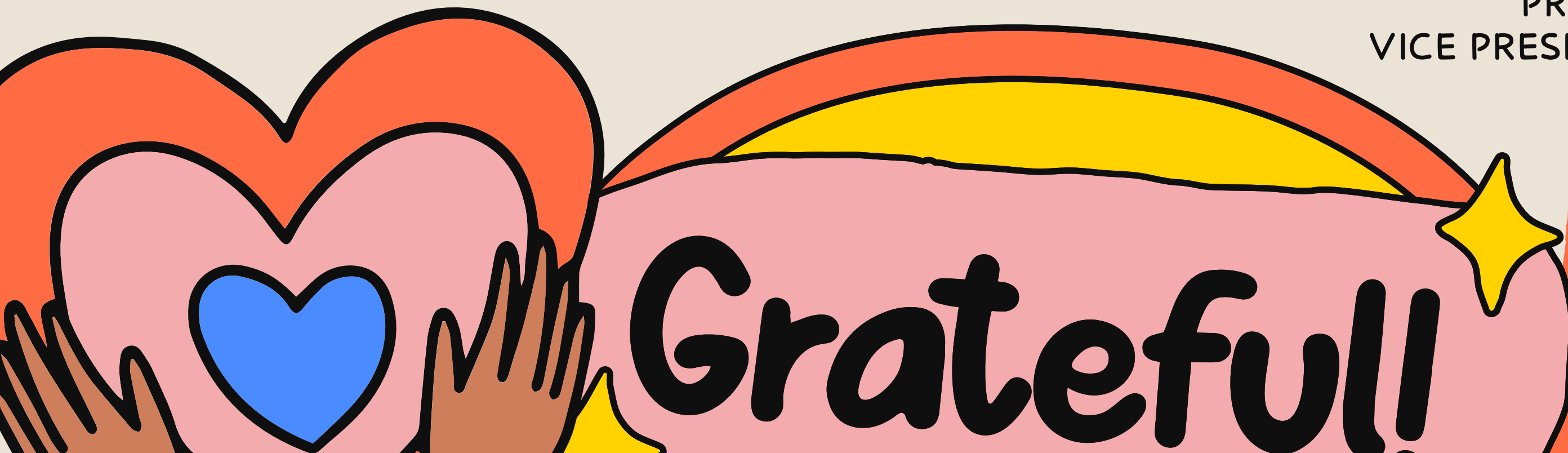
& W  NDERFUL

GIVE
THANKS

Moravian Ministries Foundation in America
Summer Stewardship Short #1

Belief > Budget

PRESENTED BY LAURA S. WATSON
VICE PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
AUGUST 5, 2026

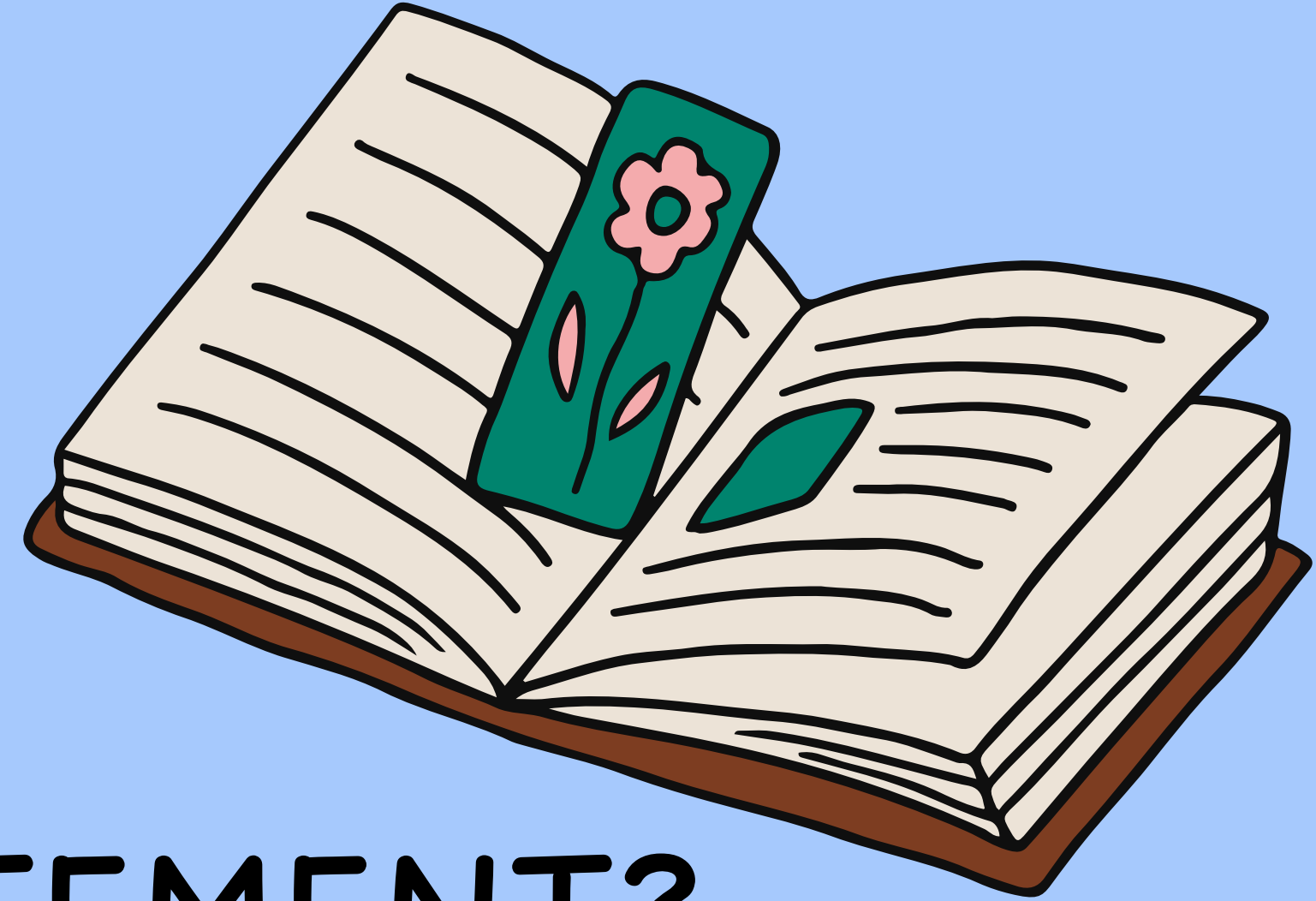


Grateful!

believe

AGENDA:

- INTRODUCTION
- WHY A BELIEF STATEMENT?
- THE FOUR PILLARS
- PUTTING IT TOGETHER
- CONVERSATION





**What did Jesus
believe about
stewardship?**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Where your treasure is, there
your heart will be also.

**Whatever you did for the least
of these, you did for me.**

Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good
works and give glory to your
Father in heaven.

Life does not consist in an
abundance of possessions.

Truly I tell you, this poor widow has
put more into the treasury than all the
others. They all gave out of their
wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put
in everything—all she had to live on.

Strive for his kingdom, and these
things will be given to you as well.

Come. Follow Me.



**What does your
church believe about
stewardship?**

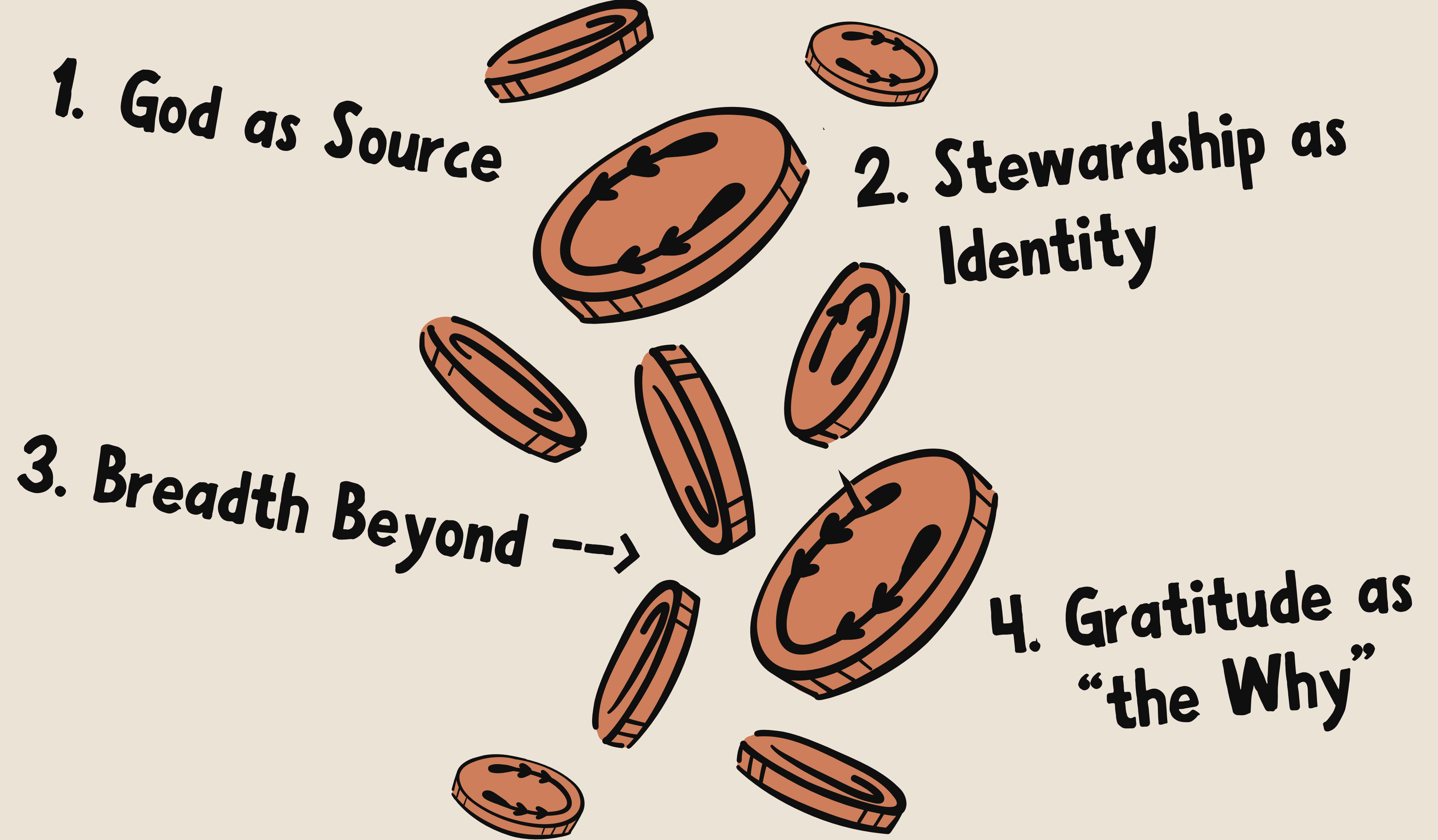
Why a belief statement?

- It begins a conversation you probably haven't had.
- You can't invite people into something you haven't defined.
- Explicit theology sends a clear message.
- A belief statement moves stewardship from an event to a way of life.





The Four Pillars of a Stewardship Belief Statement



1. God as Source

2. Stewardship as Identity

3. Breadth Beyond -->

4. Gratitude as "the Why"

1. God as Source

“...the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.”

- **Owners → Caretakers**
- **Anxiety → Trust**
- **Scarcity → Abundance**



2. Stewardship as Identity

“...created in Christ Jesus to do good works...”

- **Program → Posture**
- **Behavior modification → Spiritual formation**
- **At church → Whole life**



3. Breadth Beyond Money

“...use whatever gift you have received to serve others...”

- Time and talent
- Creation care
- Community engagement



4. Gratitude as “the Why”

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

- ~~Need~~
- ~~Tax benefit~~
- ~~Obligation~~
- Because I'm grateful for all God has entrusted to me.

IN EVERYTHING
**GIVE
THANKS**

Putting it Together



- We believe God is....
- We believe we are called to....
- We believe stewardship includes...
- We believe generosity flows from....

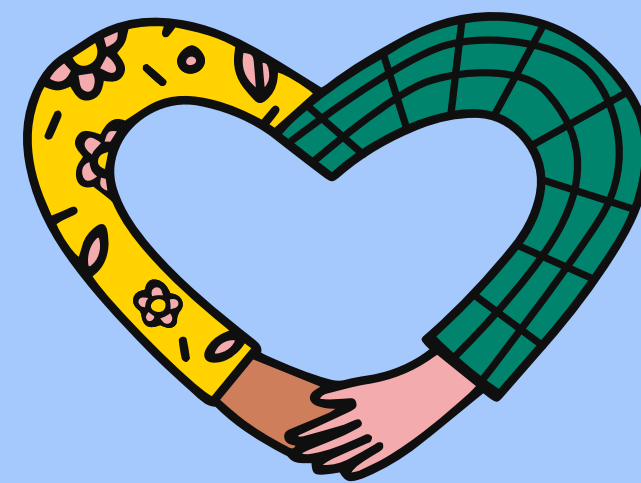
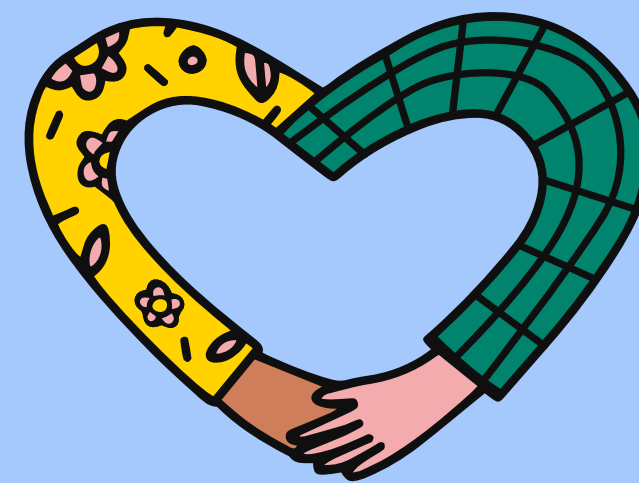
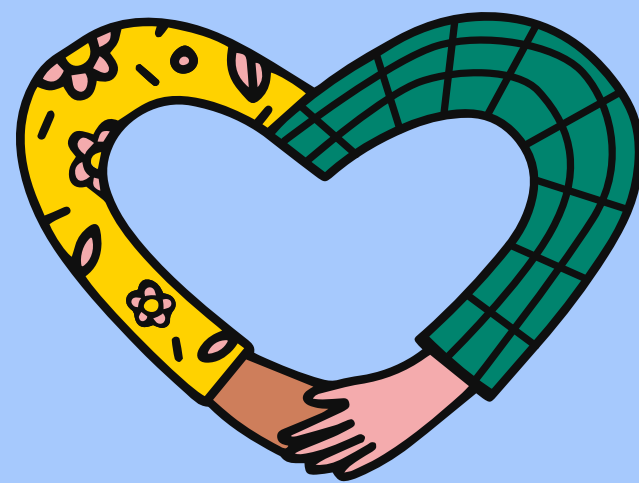
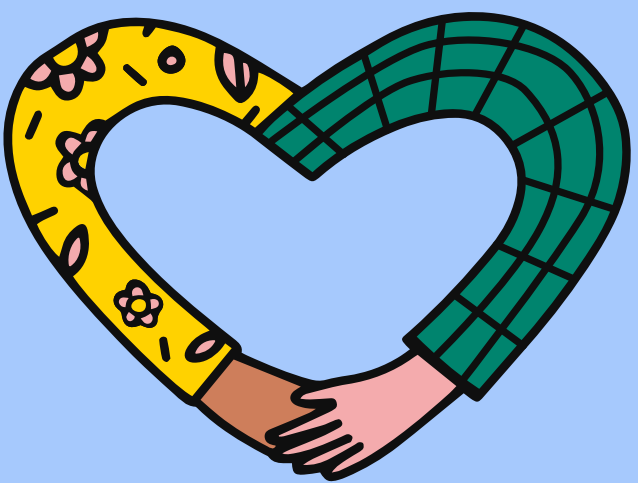
Sample Stewardship Belief Statements

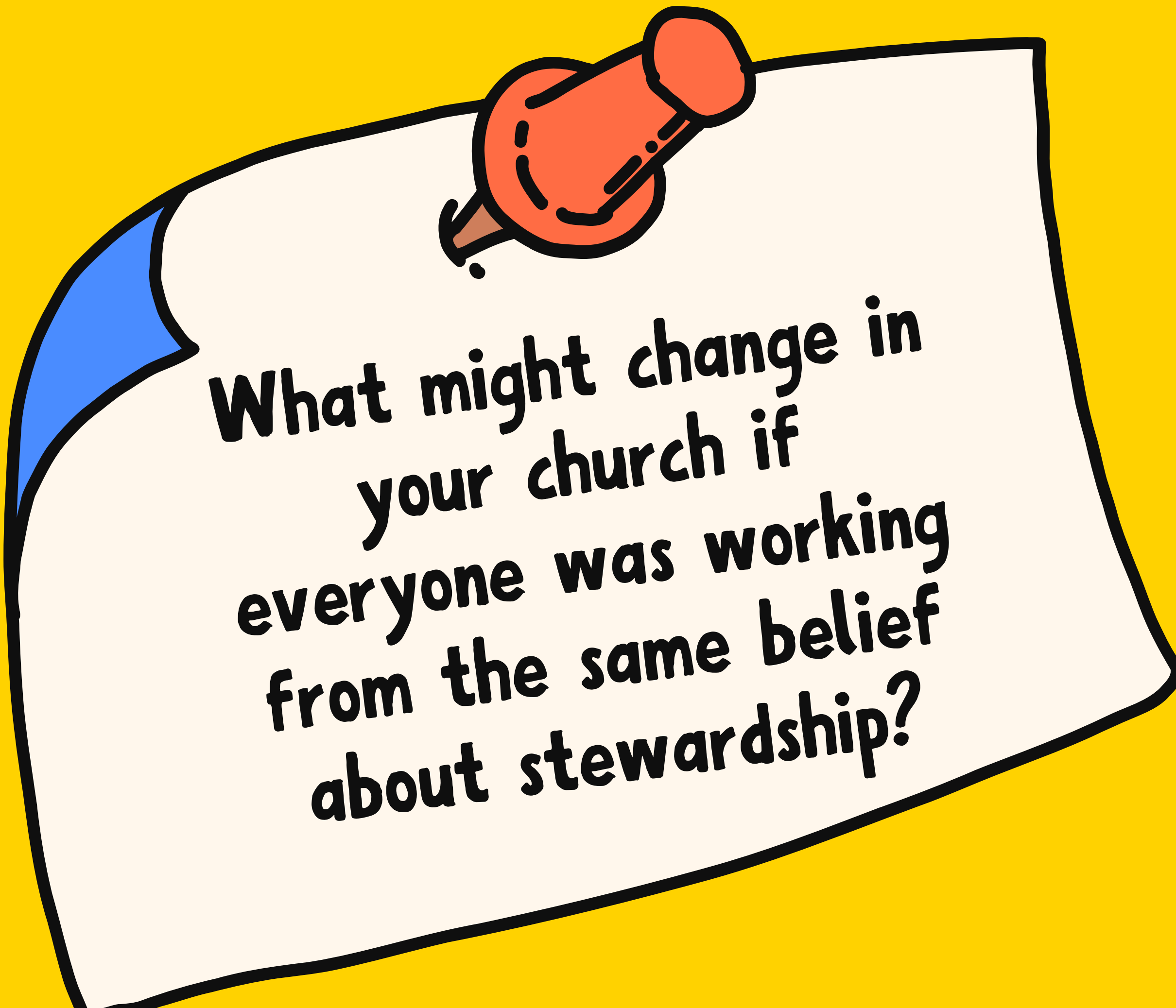
We believe everything we are and have belongs to God. We gratefully use these gifts to further God's mission in the world.

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 stewardship is generously using all we have and all we are in faithful service to God, Creation, and humankind.

We recognize God as creator and owner of everything. 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 it all?





**What might change in
your church if
everyone was working
from the same belief
about stewardship?**