

Stewardship for Every Size

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Agenda

- 1 Foundations
 - 2 Nine practices for every size
 - 3 Size-specific tactics
 - 4 Your plan for the next year
 - 5 Closing and questions
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FOUNDATIONS

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV)

FOUNDATIONS

Stewardship is discipleship.

FUNDRAISING ASKS:

“How do we meet the budget?”

STEWARDSHIP ASKS:

“How do we help people grow in generosity, in response to God's generosity?”

Stewardship is also whole life: **time** · **talents** · **treasure** · **testimony** · **Creation**

WHAT SIZE IS YOUR CONGREGATION?

SMALL



Under 50

in average worship

MID-SIZE



50-150

in average worship

LARGE



150+

in average worship

WHY SIZE MATTERS

**Smaller congregations run on
relationships. Larger congregations
run on systems.**



9

practices that work at every size



Rhythm, voice and gratitude

1

Make stewardship year-round

The church teaches, preaches, and celebrates stewardship all year long.

2

The pastor talks about money

Silence teaches that money doesn't matter to faith.

3

Thank people well

Timely, personal and more than once a year. Your low-hanging stewardship fruit.

Story, invitation and ease

4

Tell impact stories

Turn line items into a narrative budget: “this is what your gift did.”

5

Invite a next step

Proportional giving and “grow by 1%” meet people where they are.

6

Offer multiple ways to give

Offering plate, online, recurring, text and QR, plus stock gifts and IRA distributions for members 70½+.

Future generations, leadership and trust

7

Plan gifts for future generations

Regularly encourage and invite people to remember the church in their will.

8

Share leadership with lay people

A stewardship team and individual testimonies carry more weight than the pastor alone.

9

Be transparent

Share an annual report. Trust is critical for healthy stewardship.

SIZE-SPECIFIC TACTICS

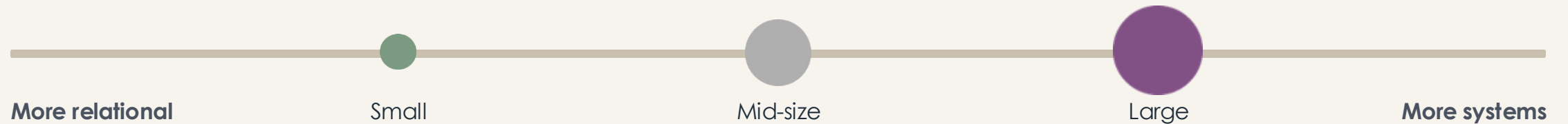
Relationships and systems: every church needs both

Relationships

Conversations, handwritten notes, visits, testimonies

Systems

Tracking, follow-up, segmented communications, a giving pathway



Same practices, different shape

Practice 3 · Thank people well

- **Small:** a handwritten note to every giver
- **Mid-size:** a personal thanks to every first-time giver
- **Large:** a quarterly thank-you with a story



Practice 8 · Share leadership

- **Small:** the Board is the stewardship team
- **Mid-size:** the Board leads, with enthusiastic lay helpers
- **Large:** a dedicated team beyond the Board



SMALL CHURCHES · UNDER ~50

Lead with relationships

Try this:

- One-on-one conversations, not mailings
- Whole-church study after worship or a potluck
- Simple process: invitation, card, Sunday, thank you
- Tie giving to one or two missions everyone knows

Watch out for:

- “Keep the doors open” messaging
- One treasurer who knows everything
- Waiting on planned giving conversations

Part-time pastor? Partner with neighboring congregations or your Province/District.



MID-SIZE CHURCHES · ABOUT 50–150

Build light systems

Try this:

- Small group gatherings
- Bless people's gifts of time
- Stewardship in the new-member class
- Two letters: current givers and not-yet givers

Watch out for:

- The pastor as everyone's hub
- Assuming Sunday announcements reach everyone

Share the care: equip board members and lay leaders to help.



Keep giving personal at scale

Try this:

- Simple giving pathway
- Messages by stage of life
- Lay visitors for 8–10 households each
- Basic tracking: first-time, lapsed, recurring

Watch out for:

- Anonymous, transactional giving
- Systems that replace relationships

Rebuild the relational layer through lay leader and staff follow-up.



The giving pathway

STEP 1

First gift

Welcome and a story

STEP 2

Recurring gift

Make it automatic

STEP 3

Proportional giving

A set share of income

STEP 4

Tithe and beyond

10% and more

STEP 5

Ultimate

Remember the church in your will

PART 3 · YOUR PLAN FOR THIS YEAR

A 12-month stewardship approach

OCT	NOV	DEC 1	DEC	JAN	SPRING	SUMMER
Invitation	Gratitude	Giving Tuesday	Year-end	Thank and report	Legacy Sunday	Time and talents
Mission stories and a next-step ask	Thank people before asking again	A special mission gift	Stock gift and IRA reminders	A letter and a simple impact report	Invite people to remember the church	Connect people to service

You don't have to do all of it this year. **Pick what fits for your church (and its size!)**

Three commitments

Start

One practice from the nine



Try

One tactic for your size



Stop

One thing that drains energy
without forming generous
people



Faithfulness has never been measured by size.

The widow gave two small coins, and Jesus said she gave more than all the rest. (Mark 12:41–44)



Questions?

What's the hardest part of stewardship in your context right now?

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