



Year-Round Stewardship Webinar



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH IN
WEST MISSOURI

Planning Your Year-Round Stewardship Program

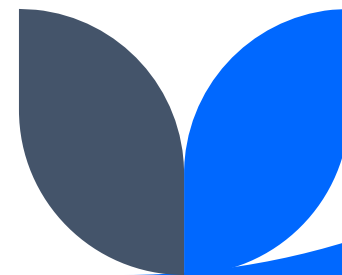
Stewardship Commission

The Diocese of West Missouri



Agenda

- Introduction of the Commission (3 minutes)
- Review survey results (2 minutes)
- Recap of 2022 year-round stewardship activities (15 minutes)
 - Reflect ways to interact with outreach committees, green teams, and other parish groups
 - Share best practices from around the Diocese
- Planning for 2023 year-round stewardship programs (20 minutes)
- Resources (5 minutes)
- Questions (5 minutes)
- Mark your calendar/Close (2 minutes)



Meet the Stewardship Commission



Amy Amason
Chair
Christ Church, Springfield



Fr. Isaac Petty
Redeemer, Kansas City



Linda Robertson
St. John's, Springfield



Zella Forsythe
St. Matthews, Raytown



Jim Gilligan
Resurrection, Blue Springs



Anita Philbrick
St. Thomas a Becket, Cassville

Introduction

- The Stewardship Commission was reconstituted in April 2022 by Bishop Diane Bruce. Amy Amason accepted the call to chair the Commission.
- The Commission conducted a survey of churches in the diocese in the fall of 2022 to gather information and understand the needs of our congregations with regard to stewardship.
- The Commission conducted a webinar on Planning Your Annual Giving Campaign in January 2023.

Results

Stewardship Survey

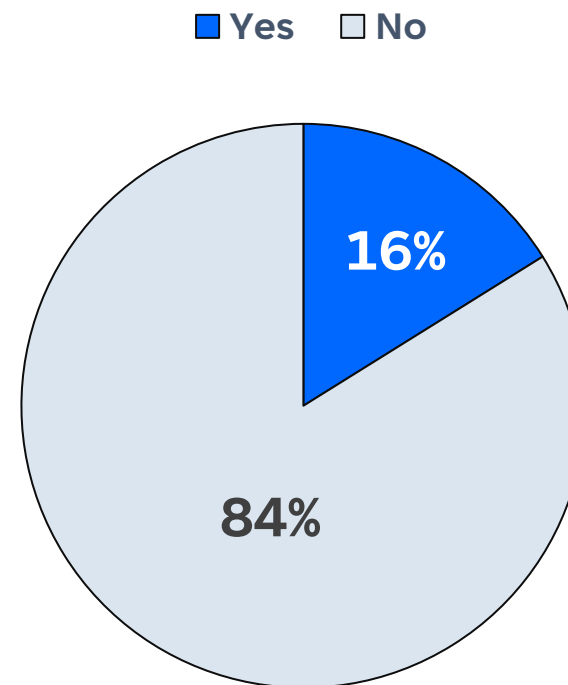
42 responses out of 47 congregations



Year-round stewardship rare

Do you have a year-round stewardship program?

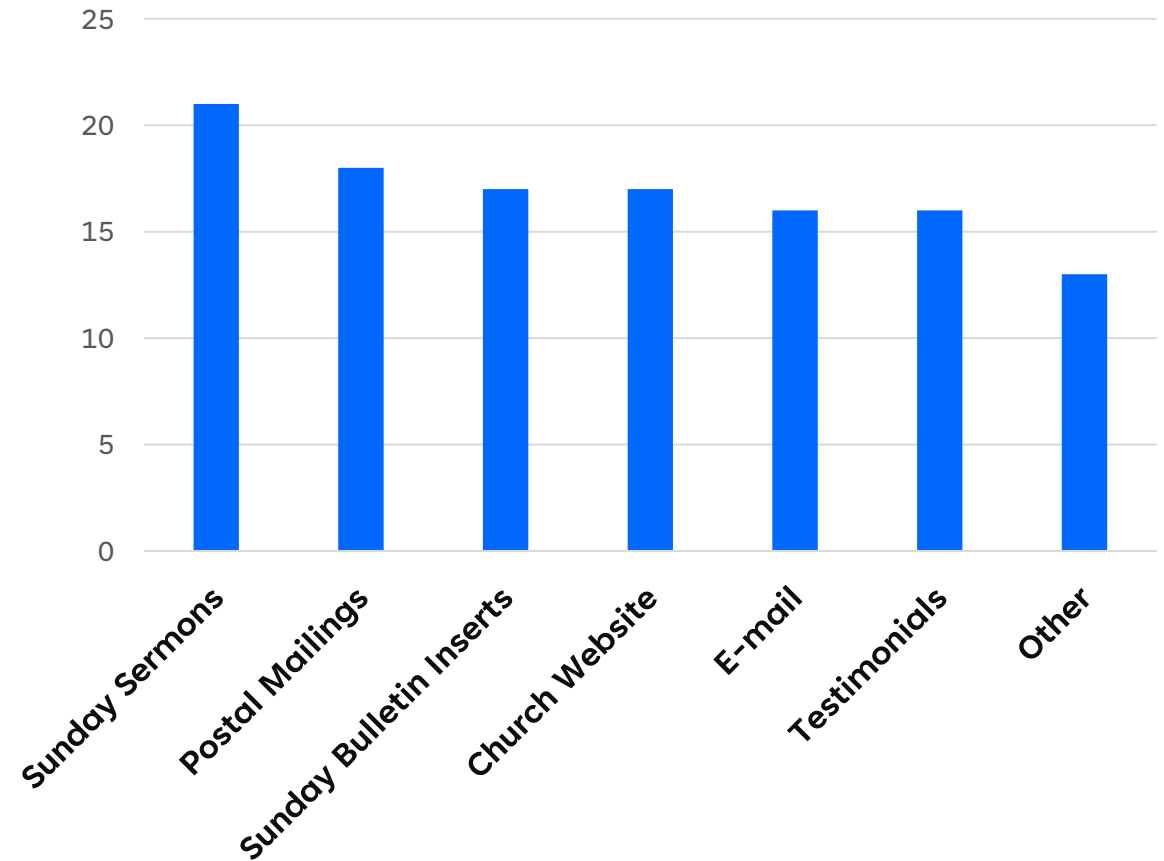
Overwhelmingly, most parishes do NOT have a year-round stewardship program.



Stewardship sermons most used

What do you do in your church as part of a year-round stewardship program?

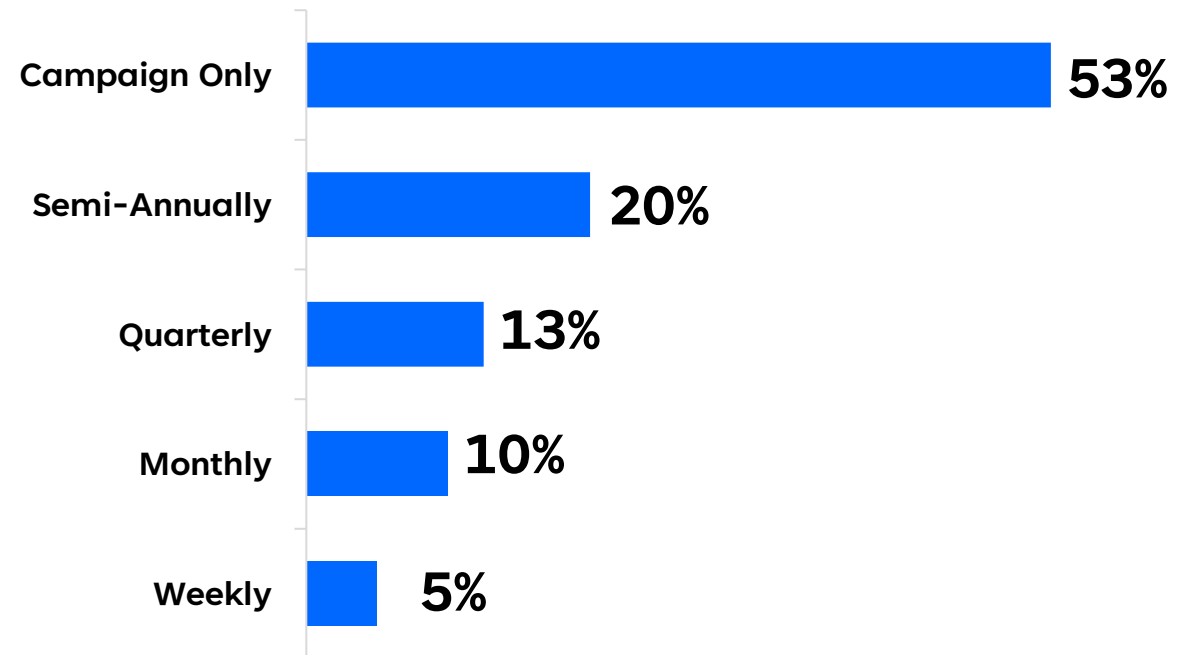
Testimonials are the least used tool for year-round stewardship.



Communications infrequent

How often do you communicate during the year with your church on stewardship?

Only 28% of our parishes communicate about stewardship more than once or twice a year.



How you want us to help you

Please rank the issues you believe the Stewardship Commission should prioritize in its initial work with churches.

“How to conduct a pledge campaign” was the most requested item. “Year-round stewardship” was second.

Ranked in order of importance
1. How to conduct a pledge campaign
2. Year-round stewardship
3. Messaging about the importance of pledges
4. Planned giving
5. How to recruit a stewardship committee for your congregation
6. Online giving
7. Preparing and using a narrative budget
8. Conducting special project or capital campaigns

Recap of your campaigns



Reflection on recent activities

Congregations, please share what you did in 2022 (or recent years) to promote year-round stewardship!

- *What did you do?*
- *How did it go?*
- *Successes and failures?*

Best practices

Congregations, please share your plan for organizing year-round stewardship activities.

- *The what, the why, and the how*
- *How do you measure success?*
- *Let's improve together!*

Planning your 2023 program



Planning your program

- 1) *Organize a stewardship ministry team.*
- 2) *Select or design a program.*
 - *Theme for the year or an emphasis changing quarterly or monthly*
 - *Publicity and activities to support the theme(s)*
 - *Combination of what is prepared /presented by the team and what actively involves other members of the congregation*
- 3) *Give thanks.*



Three ways to Teach Stewardship Year-Round – that have substance

First, divide the 12-month calendar into four natural stewardship teaching times.

January – Choose a Sunday as near to the first of the year as possible – ideal time to focus on the theme of the stewardship of time. How do we spend our time? How do we break up the time we are given responsibly between service to self, service to others, and service to God?

May – Choose a Sunday around Arbor Day (April 28 in 2023). The second stewardship emphasis naturally falls here on the theme of the stewardship of the earth (creation). When we plant a seed in the ground, we demonstrate our sense of partnership with God. When we set out a garden, plant a tree or a bush, or sow a field of grain, we experience an example of our dependence on the generosity of God expressed through the created order.

September – Choose a Sunday as near as possible to Labor Day. This is a natural occasion to focus on the theme of our stewardship of talent. Consider a theme in terms of the way that our work – our vocations, professions, and jobs – can be used in helping others, directly or indirectly.

October to early November – Normally the focus this time of the year is on stewardship of money. However, the financial aspect of our total stewardship no longer stands alone, but becomes a part of a larger concern, a concern that encompasses most, if not all, of our lives.

In addition to the sermon, all other aspects of the worship service, insofar as possible, should be geared to emphasize the Sunday theme. This includes the choice of hymns, anthems, the use of special prayers on the theme, and at least one bulletin announcement directed to the theme.

Second, consider incorporating two Every Member Visitations each year. The fall visitation is for financial pledges and the spring visitation for pledges of time and talent.

Third, use the Sunday bulletin and monthly mailings to write about it. The key to this approach is to have breadth and diversity in the messages in order to emphasize that **stewardship is what we do, all the time, with everything we have.**

A Monthly Approach

Stewardship is what we do with all that God has given us, all the time.

Each month the church season is explained and a theme is identified around which individual and congregational activities might take place in five recurring categories.

Spiritual Growth, Ministry Spotlight, Financial Health, Outside Ourselves and God's Creation

Spiritual Growth – offers ways to deepen the spiritual lives of individuals and the congregation.

Ministry Spotlight – Mission of the congregation is largely carried out through its ministries. Focusing on a different ministry each month is a way of giving thanks and raising awareness.

Financial Health – opportunity for an appeal, focus on fiscal responsibility or financial ministry offering.

Outside Ourselves – We take our stewardship to the streets of our communities. These activities help people connect their pledge to ministry; in addition, communicating and celebrating stories of meeting the needs of people are important motivators for personal stewardship decisions.

God's Creation – This category can include caring for the environment in our communities, in our homes, and in our churches. Activities that show care for the environment are especially attractive to children and families.

(See the Diocese of Olympia's website for more details and a fill-in chart.)

Don't forget to say, "Thank you."

Sending timely personalized letters or notes is obviously important after a financial pledge or other significant monetary gift is received. It's clear that a new member of the parish legacy society should be welcomed.

However, it's easy to forget that notes or mention in announcements, bulletin inserts, newsletters, or even a personal comment are encouraging for those who contribute time and talent for special occasions or on an on-going basis.

One way to thank individuals or groups, not necessarily by name, is to point out the work done by describing it very briefly in a Sunday bulletin or newsletter (printed and/or online) and ending the paragraph with “And that’s stewardship.”

Resources

Stewardship



TENS* annual campaign

- A complete turn-key year-round stewardship program
- Free to all churches in the Diocese of West Missouri
- Can be customized by you for your parish
- Available in Spanish



tENS.org

*TENS is The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (www.tens.org)

Stewardship resources

Episcopal Church Foundation

(<https://www.ecf.org/>)



Episcopal Parish Network (EPN)

(<https://www.episcopalparishes.org>)



Diocese of Olympia

(<https://resources.ecww.org/stewardship-and-giving>)



The *Episcopal* Diocese of Olympia
The Episcopal Church in Western Washington

Church Development

(<https://church-development.com/church-capital-campaign-and-stewardship-resources/>)

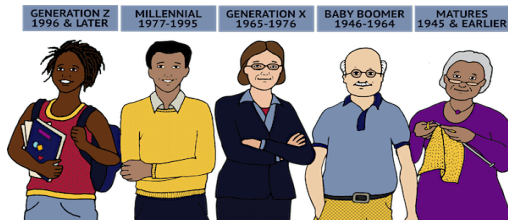


Mark your calendar

Motivations for Intergenerational Giving

TENS Webinar

Saturday, April 1, 2023
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM CDT



Making the Case: Effective Materials for Successful Campaigns

TENS Webinar

Saturday, May 13, 2023
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM CDT



“

work, pray, and give for the
spread of the kingdom of God

BCP, page 856

”



Thank you

Stewardship Commission

The Diocese of West Missouri