

A Reading / Resource List on Financial Stewardship

Prepared by Philip Reitz, ELCA Deployed Stewardship Specialist
800.755.5831 ext 104 / [email: reitzpl@msn.com](mailto:reitzpl@msn.com)<mailto:reitzpl@aol.com> www.elcaregion1.org
Spring 2006

Vincent, Mark L.; adapted by Michael Meier. *The Whys and Hows of Money Leadership: A Workbook for Pastors and Lay Leaders.* ELCA, 2003. This seven lesson workbook starts by helping leaders understand their own money story and concludes by helping leaders lead more effectively in congregation stewardship ministry. This is not a stewardship commitment program, but will provide insights and encouragement to those who teach stewardship at any level in the church.

Lane, Charles. *Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation.* Augsburg Fortress, 2006. A refreshing and new look at congregation stewardship ministry. Grounded in the Biblical call to discipleship, the author combines theological depth with practical ideas. The writing is easy to understand but not simplistic. This may be the only book on stewardship you'll need.

Powell, Mark Allan. *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life.* Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2006, ISBN 10:0-8028-2926-0. Widely known for his work in spiritual formation and congregational ministries, Powell tackles the ministry of stewardship in this very readable book full of stories and reflections that are practical and candid with the realities of today's congregation. Biblically grounded and theologically shaped Powell explores the "duty" and "delight" of a generous response in giving to God.

Miller, Herb. *Full Disclosure: Everything the Bible Says About Financial Giving.* Discipleship Resources, 1992, ISBN 0-88177-411-1. Why a book first written in 1989? Herb Miller claims to report every Old and New Testament theme that relates to giving to God. A well-known speaker and leader in the areas of evangelism and stewardship, Miller provides a timeless resource that outlines Biblical stewardship themes and compiles a listing of Biblical passages that relate to stewardship. This book is a valuable resource for anyone looking for practical and Biblical information for preaching or teaching financial giving.

Pamela York Klainer. *How Much is Enough?: Harness the Power of Your Money Story – And Change Your Life* Basic Books, 2002, ISBN 0-465-03748-8: "This is not another work/life balance book. It . . .invites honesty in reference to money and which does not impose a set of value judgments on the reader's personal choices...at the same time exceedingly compelling and challenging."

John L. Golv. *Our Stewardship: Managing Our Assets.* Augsburg Fortress 'Congregational Leader Series', 2002, ISBN 0-8066-4406-0: A good introductory book for stewardship leaders that covers a wide range of topics from management of property and facilities to year around stewardship teaching to endowment planning. Why does your congregation have the gifts it has and how are these gifts used? Reproducible tools included with the book add to its value. A good resource for strategic planning, management, finance, stewardship and property teams.

Dan Hotchkiss. *Ministry and Money: A guide for Clergy and their Friends.* 2002. An Alban Institute Publication ISBN: 1-56699-261-3. The book gives simple, direct, practical information and tools to help congregations manage dollars and make sense. He opens up both personal and congregational issues – money in the life of clergy and congregations.

Michael Meier. *Step by Step: Fostering financial stewardship in your congregation.* 2001. A publication of the ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries available through Augsburg Fortress: "Stewardship is about money, but it is not *only* about money." Written originally for mission developer pastors and lay leaders of newly formed congregations this booklet provides an overview of stewardship through 17 practical steps that build solid commitment among members to financially support their church with great joy and purpose. The best part of the booklet is the bonus section - "The Theology of Stewardship". A great resource for pastors and lay leaders.

Donald W. Joiner. *Creating a Climate for Giving.* 2001 ISBN 0-88177-318-2. This book can help you develop a theology for funding ministry, managing annual campaigns, developing year-round strategies for stewardship growth, moving people from being bill payers to being Christian philanthropists.

Michael O'Hurley-Pitts. *The Passionate Steward: Recovering Christian Stewardship from Secular Fundraising.* 2001. St Brigid Press. ISBN 0-9731378-0-0. This book is a forthright and critical review of the assumptions and practices of secular philanthropy as these have been adopted and applied by the Christian Church. It advocates a reengagement with a Christian theological and biblical agenda.

J. Cliff Christopher and Herb Mather. *Holy Smoke! Whatever Happened to Tithing?* 1999. ISBN 0-88177-284-4. In six chapters the authors present a survey of literature on tithing, a look at the practice in scripture, practical answers to frequently asked questions about tithing, a comprehensive process for helping congregations develop a long-term plan for nurturing this spiritual discipline, a discussion of the relationship between tithing and planned giving.

Duval, Michael. *Creating Congregations of Generous People.* An Alban Institute Publication, 1999, ISBN 1-56699-220-6: What kind of people does our churches challenge us to become? Traditional pledge drives reinforce low-level giving. Can generosity be taught? Will Lutherans ever give as much as Pentecostals? What can churches ask people to give? The average budget provides no reason for generous giving and countless excuses for token giving. Will members of your congregation flourish? Questions, insights, research, critique and common sense suggestions for congregation steward leaders.

McNamara, Patrick H. *More Than Money: Portraits of Transformative Stewardship.* An Alban Institute Publication, 1999, ISBN 1-56699-215-X: A wondrous journey to 11 congregations (Congregational, UCC, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian) across the United States that have been transformed by living out stewardship that is more than fund-raising. Common themes for these congregations include: a working theology of stewardship, pastoral leadership, an emphasis on the actual experience of God's grace, a commitment to service, and people bold in calling each other to give. Be forewarned, however, stewardship must be contextualized in the differences and particularities of each congregation.

Carter, William G., editor. *Speaking of Stewardship: model sermons on money and possessions.* Geneva Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 1998, Reprinted 1999, ISBN 0-664-50031-5: Compare your preaching to 23 model sermons including, 'The Top Five Reasons Why I Don't Tithe Yet.' and 'Don't Touch the Chicken Until We See If They Are Hungry.' Worth it for the introduction alone. Also includes a bibliography.

Reumann, John. *Stewardship and the Economy of God.* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992, ISBN 0-8028-0653-8 "For many Christians the term stewardship means fund-raising. Paradoxically, with the advent of the environmental movement, it has acquired another sense: stewardship as care for the earth. ... (the author) constructs a theology of stewardship that is at once faithful to the Scriptures and applicable to the lives of Christians today."

Wheeler, Sonda Ely. *Wealth as Peril and Obligation: The New Testament on Possessions.* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995, ISBN 0-8028-0733-X. This timely study of the New Testament helps bring clarity to one of the great ethical dilemmas of the modern church - the moral status of wealth and the ownership of property and possessions in relation to Christian faith.

Vincent, Mark L. *A Christian View of Money: Celebrating God's Generosity* (Herald Press, 1997 ISBN 0-8361-9451-9) and *Speaking About Money: Reducing the Tension* (Herald Press, 2001, ISBN 0-8361-9147-1) Living a financially faithful life means accepting complex decisions. Vincent outlines the role and power of money in our culture and invites a Biblical context in which to face the everyday ethical decisions that Christian persons live with. Congregations seeking to foster purposeful and spiritual teaching today will talk about money!

Grimm, Eugene. *Generous People: How to Encourage Vital Stewardship.* 1992. Abingdon Press. ISBN 0-687-14045-5. The book provides down-to-earth prescriptions to move us beyond myths, help us know how to organize, energize, and equip local stewardship leaders, and how to effectively execute stewardship programs in churches of every size.

Dungan, Nathan. *Prodigal Sons & Material Girls: How Not to Be Your Child's ATM.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003, ISBN 0-471-25069-4. Madison Avenue has our kids in their cross hairs. Our culture of spending victimizes not only our children but the families they grow up in. What role does the church have in reordering this consumer society gone awry? Dungan's critique of the church and parental leadership is right on the mark. He also offers a straightforward call to help kids build their lives on more satisfying values and behavior. He uses the 'Share-Save-Spend' formula as a basis for his appeal to churches to be a trusting, skilled community in which kids and families can reclaim spiritual and relationship values for their financial habits.