

Stewarding that which has been entrusted into the congregation's care

By God
By God's people

Stewarding that which has been entrusted into the congregation's care

- "Stewardship" in the development world
- Congregational size and congregational history are major factors in this area
- Two Resources
 - *Ministry and Money*, Jamieson and Jamieson
 - *Church Administration*, Bacher and Cooper-White

Budget Development and Monitoring

1. A budget is an annual mission plan – "What does God have in store for us?"
2. Pledge first – often an incomplete, but a very helpful picture
3. Zero-based budget?
4. Role of the congregation – approve the mission plan
 - Budget meeting before Annual Meeting?
5. Monitor the budget
 - Role of the Council
 - Role of the Sr. Pastor
 - Reports to the congregation, if any

Financial Reports to Council

1. Make sure you understand everything – get help if needed
2. Send reports out ahead of meeting along with Council packet
3. Ask specific questions of individuals before the meeting
4. Use history to develop income and expenditure monthly expectations

Take Good Care of the Money

1. Have systems in place that do not trust good people to make good choices
2. Allow no one to handle cash alone
3. Have someone reconciling bank accounts who isn't signing checks
4. The larger the congregation, the more important an annual professional audit becomes
5. Don't ever play the market in the hopes of growing available funds

Stewarding Building and Grounds

1. Consider this as not only a stewardship but also an evangelism issue
2. Don't expect everything to last forever – plan for and save for repairs/upkeep
3. Learn from lay business leaders here

Stewarding Staff

1. Lead so that others can shine
2. Lead so that those who report to you can have their weaknesses covered so that their strengths can benefit everyone
3. Hire/Call the right people, cover their backs, and empower their creativity
4. "No surprises" is a really important phrase
5. If you lead so that others can make you shine, you probably should not be leading

Discussion

- What excellent practices have you observed in stewarding resources entrusted to the congregation?
- What horror stories do you have to tell?
- Think of the most effective leaders you have known. What set them apart?