

Stewardship

By Lloyd Stangeland
For Iowa Yearly Meeting
November 9, 2013

Iowa Yearly Meeting Discipline

“The Monthly Meeting shall appoint a Stewardship Committee to promote, encourage and lead the membership into a selfless dedication to the work of Christ’s Kingdom. This body shall have the responsibility to prepare an annual budget for the consideration of the local Meeting.

Iowa Yearly Meeting Discipline

They shall also be responsible to function in the capacity of raising Monthly Meeting approved funds by acceptable methods and shall be consulted for advice and recommendation in matters of finance pertaining to the Meeting. This committee shall be composed of not less than three members serving three-year staggered terms.”

Stewardship

- Biblical View of Stewardship
- Specific Responsibilities of the Stewardship Committee
- Specific roles of the Treasurer, auditing committee and Pastor's compensation package

Biblical Statistics

- 50 references to baptism
- 200 references to faith
- 225 references to prayer
- 700 references to love
- 2300 references to money and possessions



Quaker Testimonies

- Simplicity
- Integrity
- Honesty
- Fair treatment of each person
- Using the gifts God gave us



Psalms 35:27

- And let them say continually, “Let the LORD be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.”

Working unto the Lord

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Col. 3:23-25

Working unto the Lord

- Invest our time, talent and energy to make things better
- Prosperity is the fruit of productivity
- Valuing all people promotes inventiveness



Stewardship

Everything we have belongs to God;
we are to manage it for His glory.



Malachi 3:10

- Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Tithing and Giving

- Only 3% of members tithe 10%
- 53% of Christians have not given to their church in the last month
- Giving is an expression of our love for God
- Modeled after God's gift to us of Jesus

Sowing and Reaping

- The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
- II Corinthians 9:6 ESV



Biblical Perspective on Debt

“Let no debt remain outstanding...”

Rom 13:8



Teaching members and young people to manage money

Sunday School or Evening classes

1. Financial Peace University or Momentum Theorem (Dave Ramsey)
2. Freed-Up Financial Living (Willow Creek)
3. Money Life Personal Finance Study (Crown Financial and Larry Burkett)
4. Everence Financial www.everence.com

Teaching members and young people to manage money

Topical studies on specific areas of money management

1. College expenses and cost of student loans
2. Managing credit cards
3. Tithing and giving



Teaching members and young
people to manage money

Marketplace Christianity by Robert
Fraser (Joseph International)

How we live our lives for Christ on the
job each day

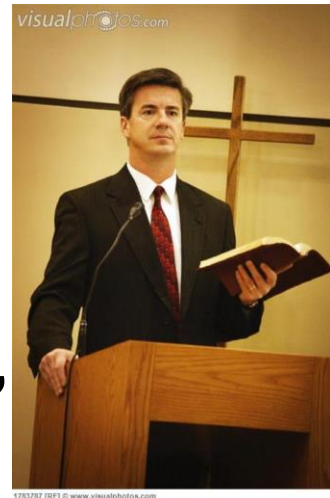
Teaching members and young people to manage money

Integrate into worship

1. “Moments in Mission”
2. Messages on or in bulletin
3. Quotes on holistic stewardship
4. Special prayer for those benefiting from the gifts (Missions, IaYM, FUM, pastor, etc.)

Encourage sermons on Stewardship

- Teach God's ways of managing money
- His plan for giving frees us from love of money
- **Note references to stewardship themes even when preaching on broader topic**
- Avoiding bondage to money, stinginess, hoarding, fear of not having enough and poverty mentality



Future of Church Finances

- Tax deductions eliminated?
- Churches pay property taxes?
- Zoning laws used to prevent renting or building?



Budget and Finance Responsibilities

Stewardship Committee

**Guard against attitudes that
limit excellence**

Preparing the Church Budget

Line item budget

1. Compare last year's budget to actual spending – look at trends
2. Prayerfully consider priorities for ministry
3. Recognize that Monthly Meeting is final authority for the budget



Preparing the Church Budget

Line item budget

4. IaYM/ FUM – Consider 10%
5. Missions
6. Pastoral Salary



Narrative Budget

A. To provide meaningful, life changing worship every week \$80,000

Last year we held 112 worship services with average attendance of 290 people gathered to praise God.

14 people gave their lives to Christ

Special Music events had over 100 unchurched people in attendance.

B. Nurture People in their Faith Journey \$37,000

Counting and recording all offerings

- Controls and accountability to maintain honesty, integrity and transparency
- Credit and debit giving
- Separate positions for receiving treasurer and bill paying (bursar)



Methods for Approval of Bills

- Committee Clerks
- Utilities
- Pastor's Salary and other staff



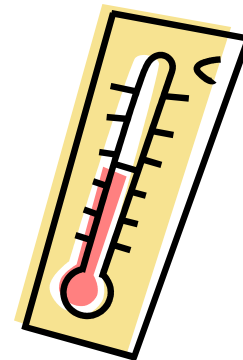
Compare budget to expenses

- Treasurer give monthly report by budget category
- Stewardship meet at least once each quarter

<i>Expense Items</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Current Month</i>	<i>Y-T-D</i>	<i>%Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Education - SS Materials	1,200.00		475.70	40%	724.30
Benevolence	400.00		0.00	0%	400.00
Pulpit Supply	200.00		200.00	100%	0.00
Recreation	200.00		0.00	0%	200.00
Food	4,000.00	368.20	2,610.69	65%	1,389.31
Building and Grounds	4,500.00	253.86	2,797.51	62%	1,702.49

Least effective reporting methods

1. Using line-item budget
2. Dividing budget by 12 or 52 and reporting monthly or weekly “need”
3. Constant reporting of being behind
4. Trying to analyze giving patterns by individuals instead of households
5. Thermometers



Most effective reporting methods

1. Using a narrative budget
2. Quarterly “Faith and Finance” report
 - Quarterly income and expenses
 - Comparison to the same quarter over last three years
 - Ministry testimonies
 - Giving testimonies
3. Reporting and analyzing by households

Afternoon Session

- Reviewing the work of the audit committee
- The specific role of treasurers
- How treasurers and stewardship committees work together