



Moving ministries forward, *together.*



Stewardship Shorts:

Embracing Stewardship

by Charles R. Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy

Thursday, October 8, 2020

11:30 am

Overview

(aka what I loved about the book):

- Authors' perspectives
- “Why is stewardship so stinking difficult?” chapter
- Practical tools for embracing stewardship
- 8 ways to put stewardship at the heart of your congregation's life

Deeper Dive

(aka points that really resonated with me):

1. “Trust” vs. “Gift” Language:

- shifting from “God has given us _____” to “God has entrusted _____ to us.”
- reframing the question: “What do I want to do with my money?” to “What would God have me do with the money God has entrusted to me?”

Deeper Dive

2. “Owner” vs. “steward”:

- Cant’ be both owner and steward
- God as the owner; you as the steward....how does this perspective change how you live with possessions?
- Stewards exist to serve others; their focus is always outward

Deeper Dive

3. Theology of abundance:

- The earth is abundant, and God has entrusted us with that abundance
- Yet our systems have made the collective abundance inequitable (ex. money)
- As stewards we share God's abundance with one another ("our" portion isn't ours!)

Does your church trust in God's abundance as you plan and conduct ministry? How? How not?

Deeper Dive

4. Stewardship Challenges:

- Business/spiritual split in congregations
- Stewardship is only about money
- Societal taboos about money
- Consumerism
- Generational differences

Which of these exist at your church?

Deeper Dive

5. Design thinking:

- Reframing wants/needs/dreams into positive opportunities
- Ex. “I want more people to pledge” becomes “How might we better educate people on the importance of pledging as it relates to their spiritual journey and the church budget?”

Deeper Dive

6. Steps to Take:

- Talk about money when you aren't asking for it
- Conduct an excellent annual response program
- Tell your congregation's stewardship story to your congregation
- Develop a plan for thanking
- Expand the ways of giving to the congregation
- Talk about stewardship all year
- Reach new audiences
- Talk about money in two distinct ways (discipleship and financial)

Now What?

(aka there are only 24 hours in a day):

- Let Laura know if you are interested in receiving a copy(ies) of *Embracing Stewardship*
- Schedule a time to meet with Laura to go more in-depth about your congregation's stewardship (What do people believe about stewardship? How is the congregation's stewardship lived out? What are the obstacles? How can we overcome them?)
- Utilize MMFA's stewardship health assessment tool



“Let us love,
not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.”

1 John 3:18



www.mmfa.info

Laura Watson
Director of Stewardship Services
lwatson@mmfa.info

336-725-2589