

REPORT OF THE GENEROUS CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Introduction

A Generous Culture of Stewardship (GCoS) is an integral part of Niagara's Vision. A grant from the Anglican Church of Canada funds the half-time salary of Jim Newman, Stewardship Consultant for the Diocese of Niagara. The Generous Culture of Stewardship Committee provides an essential role in strategic thinking about high quality stewardship education.

The GCoS Team Approach

We focus attention on abundance, not scarcity; and on our relationship with God, not on maintaining an institution. We strive to develop greater awareness that all we are and all we have is a gift from God; and that stewardship is everything that we do when we live God's mission. We encourage generosity, thankfulness, and spiritual growth through gifts of time, talents and finances, and we uphold the principle that all gifts and resources must be well protected and well managed.

The Stewardship Consultant works with parishes and leads workshops and seminars that feature:

- Year Round Stewardship Education for parishes with a particular emphasis on narrative budgets
- "Ten Simple Things to Increase your Parish Income"
- Promotion of stewardship through the Diocesan web site and the Niagara Anglican
- Parish brochures and marketing materials
- Sunday morning preaching.
- Gift Planning education in partnership with allied professionals
- Capital campaigns for major parish projects
- Research and development of on-line stewardship and gift planning tools

Positive Results

Patterns are emerging that shows transformative change takes place in parishes that:

- Focus time and energy on understanding mission and ministry
- Pay attention to hospitality and welcoming
- Develop meaningful narrative budgets
- Build community involvement
- Are specific about their needs
- Think and speak positively
- Plan systematically, and strategically
- Clearly communicate their financial situation within the parish
- Uphold the quality of music, preaching, and liturgy
- Ensure clergy is well informed (i.e. "the rector knows who gives")
- Seize every opportunity to tell their story

This process develops church leaders who become strongly committed to stewardship and become agents of change in their parishes. It moves the focus from obstacles to mission and how stewardship and money makes mission possible. This in turn brings clarity to vision and foundational values, invites real discipleship, and provides more than enough credibility and value to make direct 'asks' to parishioners for specific increases in giving. That 'ask' is vital to the context and goal of stewardship in today's church, and the results speak for themselves.

REPORT OF THE GENEROUS CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (continued)

The stewardship culture of the Diocese is growing, and our language is changing. Fewer speak about survival and paying the bills while more of us see stewardship being central to and inseparable from mission and ministry, and directly connected to our spirituality.

The Generous Culture of Stewardship Team in 2011 included:

- The Reverend Dr. Derek Anderson, Rector, St. Matthew on the Plains Anglican Church, Burlington
- The Reverend Jean Archbell, Rector, St. Elizabeth's Anglican Church, Burlington
- Mitch Banks, Parish and Diocesan leader
- The Venerable Lynne Marchant, Rector, St. John's Anglican Church, Niagara Falls
- The Reverend Canon Paddy Doran, Interim Rector at Church of the Nativity, Hamilton
- Jim Newman, Diocesan Stewardship Consultant and GCOS Team Leader
- The Reverend Canon David Pickett, Rector, St. John's Anglican Church, Ancaster
- The Venerable Dr. Michael Thompson, Rector, St. Jude's Anglican Church, Oakville

The Diocesan GCOS Team

Each consultation, seminar and workshop increases the Diocesan Team of hundreds of clergy and lay people who work to stimulate and bring to life a Generous Culture of Stewardship across the Diocese through conversation, resource sharing, and consultation.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Newman, Diocesan Stewardship Consultant