

## **REPORT OF THE GENEROUS CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Generous Culture of Stewardship Committee (formerly the Stewardship and Financial Development Committee) encourages all forms of stewardship education that acknowledge that stewardship is not about keeping the church afloat, but about our relationship with God. That includes developing greater awareness that all we have is a gift from God, and that when we give, we're giving back to God what is God's in the first place. It follows that we are to ensure that all gifts and resources are well protected, well managed, and used for the furthering God's work.

What are the signs of a Generous Culture of Stewardship?

- *A broad consensus among diocesan leadership, clergy, and laity that generosity is a shared goal and a leading indicator of spirituality*
- *Ministries at all levels (parishes, Diocese, and the National Church) that are adequately and fairly resourced*
- *People living out their Baptismal covenant*
- *Governance, committees, and processes that embody and support our Vision*
- *Diocesan and parish budgets that realistically reflect anticipated revenue and support investment in resources consistent with living our Vision.*

The Committee works in close partnership with the Department of Philanthropy of the Anglican Church of Canada. We work extensively with individual parishes and lead workshops and seminars focusing on:

- Year Round Stewardship Education for parishes with a particular emphasis on telling each parish's story in narrative budgets
- Gift Planning Education for individuals in partnership with allied professionals
- Capital Campaigns for major parish projects
- Research and development of stewardship and gift planning tools
- Communications through the Diocesan web site, the Niagara Anglican, parish brochures and marketing materials, parish corporations and committees and Sunday morning preaching.

Popular workshops in 2010 included *Eliminate the Debt* and *Ten Simple Things to Improve Your Parish Income*. Topics under consideration for future workshops include *Effective Parish Advocacy*, *Visionary Narrative Budgets*, *How to talk about Wills and Planned Giving*, *A Theology of Abundance*, *Successful Capital Campaigns*, and *Creating a Magnetic Web Presence*.

In 2010 the Committee has been instrumental in the promotion of the Diocesan Vision, the campaign for Passion for Justice, the Bequest Identification Initiative, the Diocesan Grants Program, and working in close partnership with the Diocesan Budget Committee in preparing the Diocesan Narrative Budget and the Proposal for the Diocesan Annual Fund. The Diocesan web site pages for Stewardship and Gift Planning have been extensively revised and linked to resources of the National Church. We also retain close working relationships with the Stewardship staff of the Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Ontario Stewardship Network.

Core team members of the Generous Culture of Stewardship Committee are Reverend Dr. Derek Anderson, Reverend Jean Archbell, Mitch Banks, The Venerable Lynne Corfield, Jim Newman, Reverend Canon David Pickett and support staff person Karen Nowicki. Each consultation, seminar and workshop develops 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