

SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP: 2018 – WORKSHOP & PLENARY DESCRIPTIONS

Karl Travis

Plenaries: Generosity as the Antidote to Society's Problems

Session I

What's your stewardship pitch? Too often, congregations lead with the church's financial needs – staff salaries, utility bills, building maintenance, etc. The spiritual benefits of individual generosity get washed away in institutional anxiety and the inertia of yesteryear's stewardship campaigns.

What if we began our stewardship conversations not with the church's need to receive, but with the individual's need to give? And what difference would it make if we discovered that our generosity is rooted in God's generosity?

The guiding thought of this session: *Is God generous, and if so, so what?*

Session 2

Each autumn, when we roll out the year's stewardship campaign, is there a way to open the conversation to God? If our stewardship conversations are about more than meeting the church's budget, how can we think about generosity that deepens discipleship and enlivens a broader spiritual life? Created in God's image, fashioned by God to be kind and compassionate, creative and generous, how do we move towards God's example of self-giving love and conspicuous open-handedness?

The guiding thought of this session: *If our discipleship includes changing the world, how does our generosity contribute?*

Session 3

God is generous. We aspire to be. Our generosity empowers us to be creatively counter-cultural. It inoculates us from the chief idols of the age: consumerism, materialism, and acquisition. In a hectic world in which busy people seek rhythm and ritual to ground our faith, consistent generosity leads us into a deeper relationship with God, our families, and ourselves. The bottom line: generosity pays liberating spiritual dividends.

Finally, in Session 3 – but not before – we can begin to talk about why giving to the church matters.

The guiding thought of this session: *Congregations which care most about their members' spiritual health will have more money to engage their mission.*

Workshops:

Karl Travis

1. Pep Talk for Preachers - The pastor's call thrusts her into the pulpit and into the Budget Committee, and it is often an uncomfortable fit. As preacher, Session moderator, and coach, many pastors find talking and preaching about money and generosity among their most difficult tasks, and least favorite. What are the pastor's resistances? How do we name and overcome them? How might a liberating and joyous embrace of generosity shape our preaching and overwhelm our fears?

Zac Walker

2. Youth & Stewardship: A Vision for Holistic Giving - Youth are part of the financial story of many organizations: fundraising for scouts, swim team and band. Yet, somehow, faith organizations lack a vibrant vision for youth and stewardship. In partnership with church and families, can we nurture them toward a deeper sense of stewardship – as spiritual exercise and not simply asking for money? We will discuss ways to deepen understandings of God's gifts to us at a unique time in life, and examine our response in return.

Sue Ann Seel

3. The Spirituality of Stewardship - Is there spirituality in fundraising? Looking to a spiritual anchor for guidance, we will use Henri Nowen's "A Spirituality of Fundraising" as a place to deepen our theological understanding of stewardship, money and fundraising.

Patricia Ireland

4. Stories over Numbers: Narrative Budgets - Learn how to use narrative budgets to help your congregation understand the impact of the work that is done with their dollars. Narrative budgets fill the gap in understanding between utility bills, snow removal and salaries, and mission that is done in your building, by your staff and for your community to change lives and witness to the faith we profess. Review examples from churches that have used narrative budgets and learn how to create one for your own church.

Fred Holbrook and Matt McBride

5. Faith Based Budgets

Lisa Longo, Relations Officer, Presbyterian Foundation

6. Planned Giving 101
7. Electronic Giving

Debbie Garber, Pastor, Westside Presbyterian Church, Lawrence, KS

8. Time and Talent workshop - We often limit "Stewardship" to the giving of money to the church and its mission. But Stewardship is also about how we each discern and use our time and talent to not only enhance the vitality of the church, but to be the church in the world. This workshop will wrestle with the murky process of discernment and identify strategies for helping congregants explore their gifts and talents, both in the church and in the world.

Laura Frasey

9. Stewardship 101: What is it? What does it mean to the church? - Stewardship is more than just fundraising at the end of the year. It is a spiritual practice that we are called to take seriously and to practice regularly. This session will explore how to take Stewardship from year end to year round.

John Wray, Consultant Church Campaign Services; Presbyterian Foundation

10. The Building Blocks of a Successful Capital Campaign - This workshop will look at what needs to be in place before a church launches a capital campaign. It will answer pre-campaign questions such as how much money can we raise, how long does a campaign last, how will the campaign affect the church's annual giving and when is the best time of the year to conduct a campaign. It will also look at what steps are involved during the active campaign time period as well as the multiyear pledging period which follows.

Tim Cargal

11. The Stewardship of Pastoral Calls - Understand the connection between the various components of a pastor's compensation package and the United States average of 2% charitable giving for over four decades. How many giving families do you need in order for sustainable ministry? How might that ratio be impacted if average giving moved (even just closer) to the tithe?

Rev. Mitchell is Senior Director for Mission Engagement and Support, and Rev. Kruse is Mission Engagement Advisor for the Midwest Region.

12. No More Fundraising - What is your congregation's purpose? Rev. Rosemary Mitchell, CFRE, and Rev. Rhonda Kruse, both from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, will facilitate a conversation about the important connection in the Presbyterian Church (USA) between mission and stewardship. We will explore the role gratitude plays in both mission and stewardship, and its importance in our discernment of what God may be calling us to be and do. We will also look at how the Presbyterian practice of partnership strengthens our corporate witness in the service of God's mission.

Alex Wales

13. Generational Giving - Targeting your stewardship approach to reach those you want to have give - the Boomers, the X-ers, the new Gens, (Oh and don't forget the Greatest Generation.)

Lisa Tait Longo, Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation

14. Creating a Culture of Generosity – Is your congregation's approach to stewardship stuck in a rut? Are you living in a state of scarcity and longing for abundance? This workshop will outline a program that has moved churches from a four-week stewardship campaign to a year-round culture of generosity. Learn how to form your Generosity Team, how to create an activities calendar for your church's funds ministry, how to prepare a narrative budget, and how to integrate all aspects of your church into the life of generosity.