A nighttime photograph of the Bay Bridge in San Francisco, California. The bridge's towers are illuminated with warm yellow and orange lights, and the city skyline in the background is also lit up. The lights are reflected in the dark water of the bay. The sky is a deep blue. The text "SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD RETHINKING STEWARDSHIP" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered in the upper half of the image. The text is enclosed in a thin white rectangular border.

**SIERRA PACIFIC  
SYNOD  
RETHINKING  
STEWARDSHIP**



# The world is both burning & blooming.

You get the bad news  
and the sunrise in the same day.  
You cry over the headlines,  
then you laugh at a baby  
wearing a hat shaped like a bear.  
This is the dual citizenship  
of being alive.  
Rage and reverence,  
Grief and grace.  
You are allowed to feel both.  
You are allowed to scream,  
& still notice how good the soup is.  
You don't have to choose.  
Let it all in.



*Karen Salmansohn + [yourtodieforlife.com](http://yourtodieforlife.com)*

# Stewardship

---

*oikonomos* = Steward or manager

*oikonomia* = Stewardship or  
management

***Stewardship moves at the speed  
of relationship.***

***Communal Stewardship and  
Personal Stewardship***

---

---

# Where to start

Stewardship is less about the particulars, and more about the whole.

**Stewardship moves at the speed of relationship.**

Biblically speaking, stewardship *is* our mission, not just about funding our mission. (Powell, Giving to God, 114)

We have moral documents, moral instruments, that God has given us. How will we use them? How should we use them?

We have gifts that God has given us. How do we bless the world, and bless others, with them?

---



---

## Stewardship is Rooted in Baptism

- **First Birth –**

- live for fame -live for fortune*

- live for prestige -live for power*

- **Second birth –**

- live for wisdom and*

- understanding -live for*

- self-giving love -live for peace*

- live for justice*

---

*Stewardship is all that follows* “I BELIEVE”



A landscape photograph showing rolling hills. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, green grasses. A dirt path or road winds through the middle ground, leading towards the horizon. The sky is overcast with grey clouds, and the overall lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting an overcast day. The text "DIFFERENT TYPES OF STEARDSHIP" is overlaid in the center of the image, enclosed in a thin red rectangular border.

# DIFFERENT TYPES OF STEARDSHIP

# Kinds of Stewardship



## FINANCIAL

How we use our  
pocketbooks



## VOICE

How we advocate  
for our neighbors



## RELATIONSHIP

How we interact with  
our neighbors



## LAND

How we use  
property



## MISSION WELLSPRING

How we utilize our  
space

# Kinds of Stewardship



## BODY

How we steward our health



## CREATION

How we care for our world



## COLLECTIVE BODY

How we care for our and connect with our community



## PRAISE

How we connect with God



## TIME

How we use our hours.

# Kinds of Stewardship



## SOCIAL MEDIA

How we steward our online presence



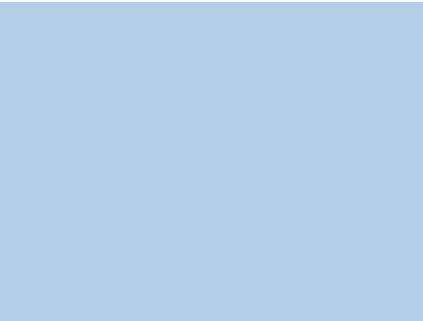
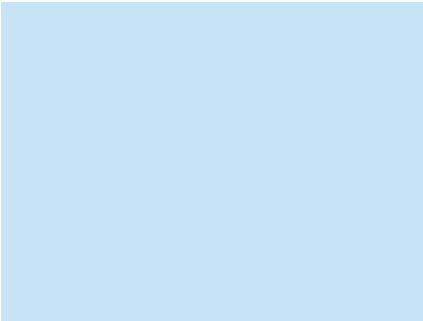
## CALL

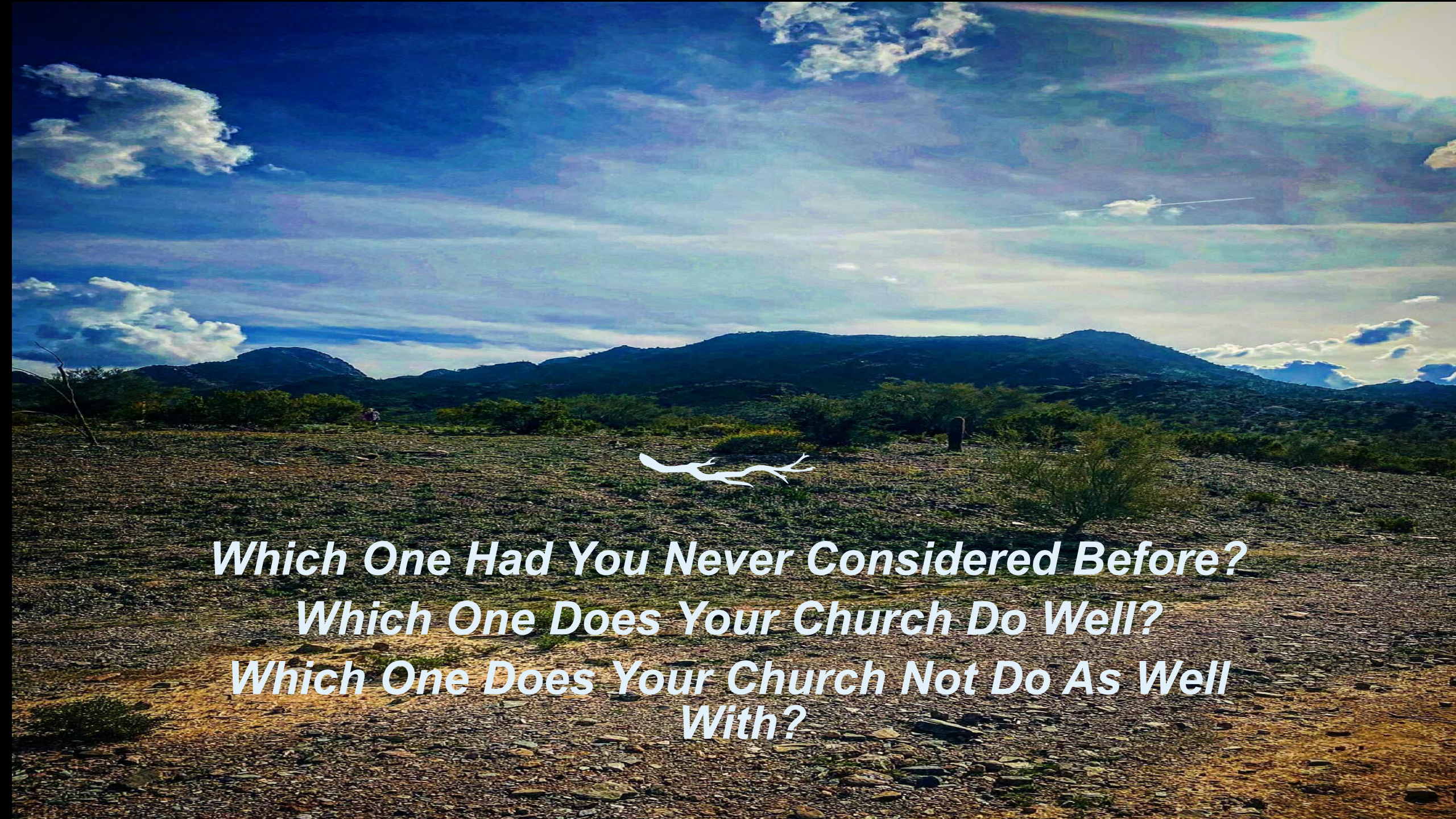
How we care for our purpose



## AI

How we steward our tech tools





*Which One Had You Never Considered Before?  
Which One Does Your Church Do Well?  
Which One Does Your Church Not Do As Well  
With?*



WHAT DOES A  
STEWARDSHIP TEAM  
PRIMARILY DO?

***Elevate the  
conversation around  
generosity to  
empower disciples  
to think about life  
through a  
stewardship lens.***

***IT IS NOT A  
FUNDRAISING  
TEAM.***

**TELL ALL THE TRUTH BUT TELL IT SLANT —**

***TELL ALL THE TRUTH BUT TELL IT SLANT —***

***SUCCESS IN CIRCUIT LIES***

***TOO BRIGHT FOR OUR INFIRM DELIGHT***

***THE TRUTH'S SUPERB SURPRISE***

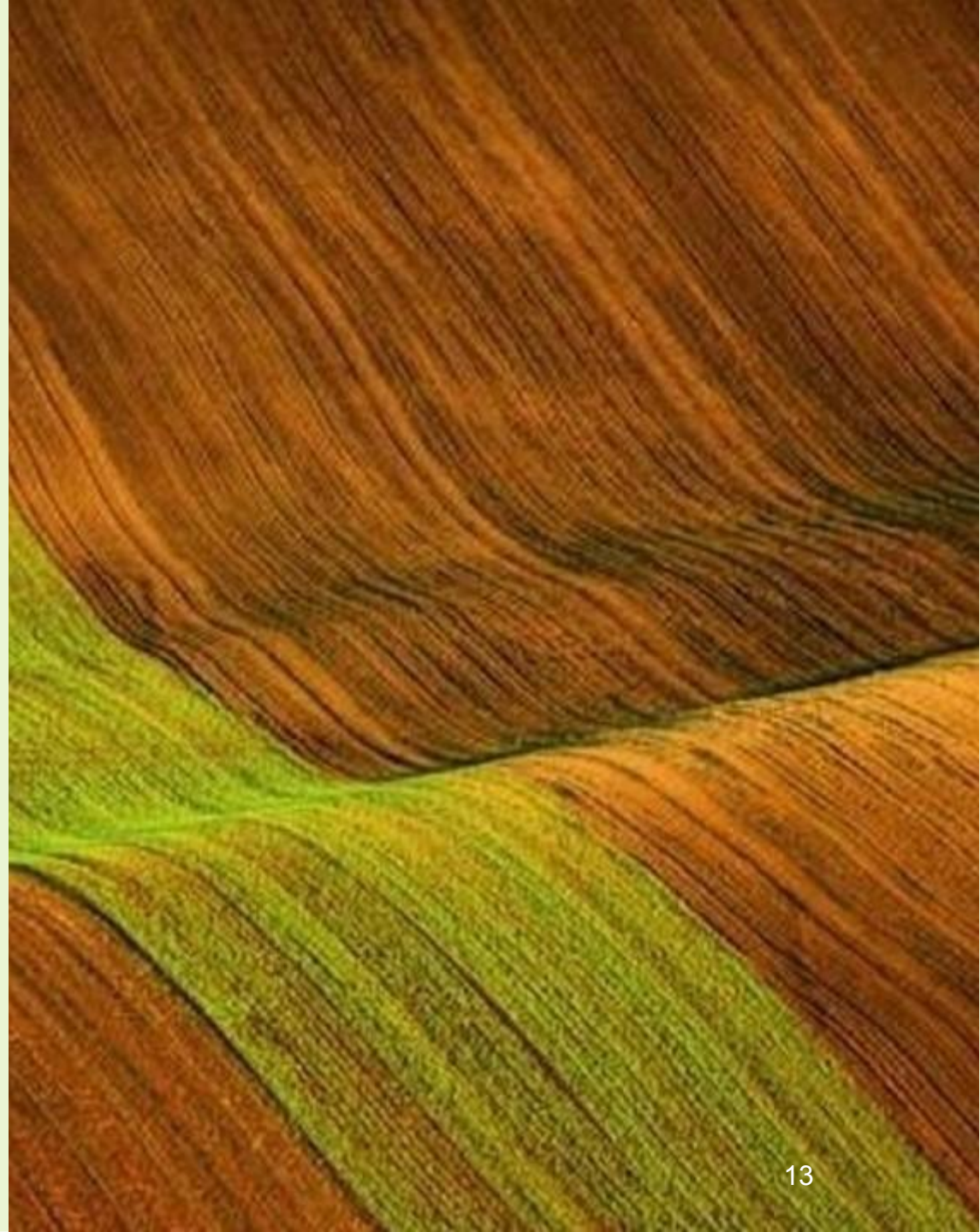
***AS LIGHTNING TO THE CHILDREN EASED***

***WITH EXPLANATION KIND***

***THE TRUTH MUST DAZZLE GRADUALLY***

***OR EVERY MAN BE BLIND —***

**BY EMILY DICKINSON**



# FOUR MINDSET SHIFTS

## SCARCITY VS. SUFFICIENCY

### Definitions of Giving Have Changed for Some

Source:  
research  
the Gen  
Approac  
Generos  
Differen  
June 19,

Without Apology

Scarcity Church

Silent on Stewardship

Once a year

Offering is time-out

Pastors hide

Sufficient Church

Stewardship is life

Frequent

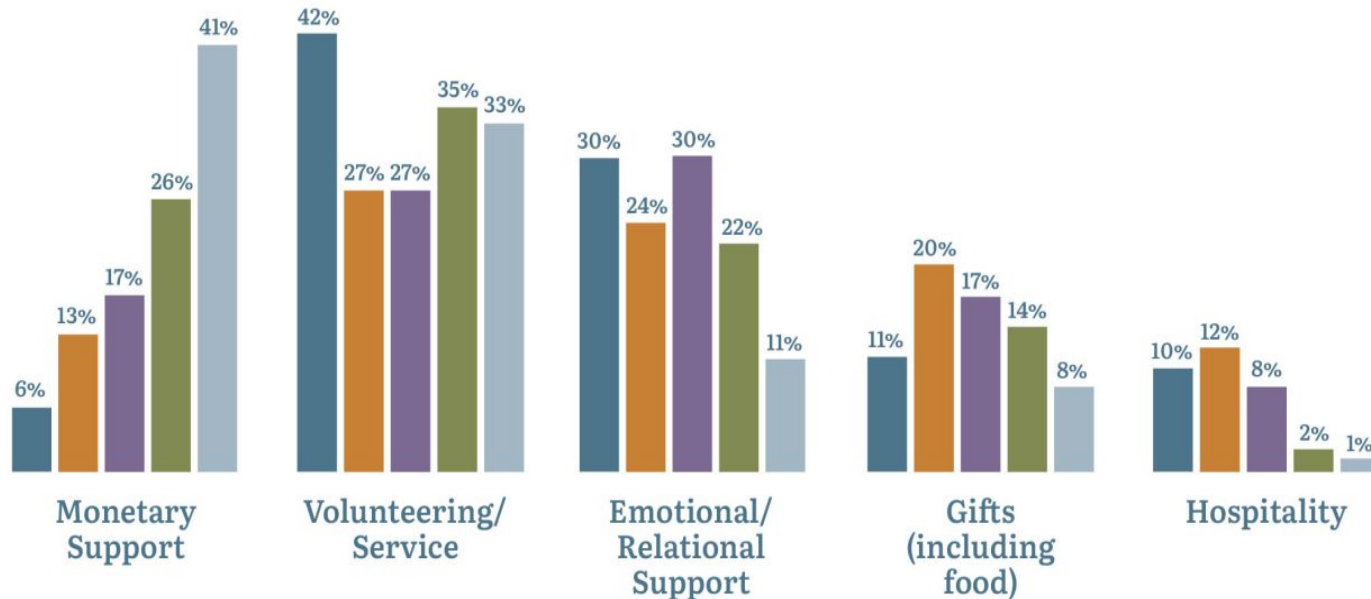
Offering is a high

Pastors model

#### Expressions of Generosity, By Generation

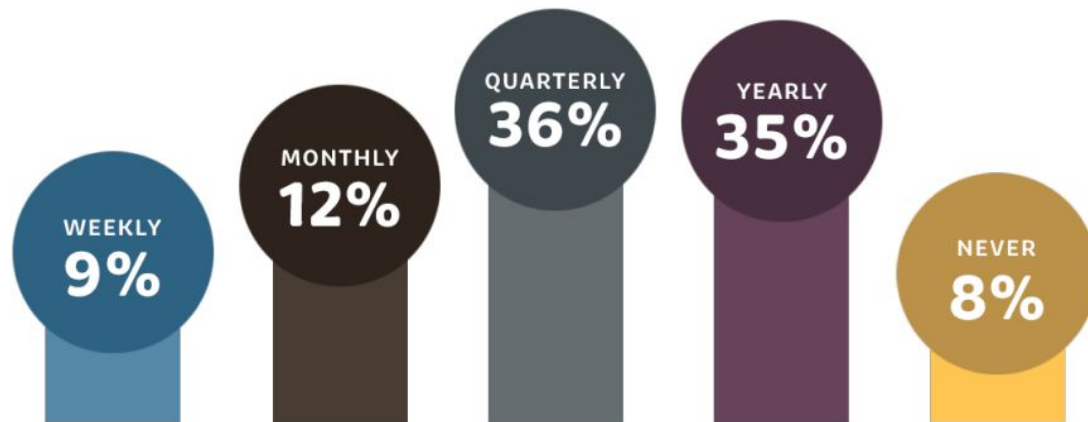
In what way are you most frequently generous to others?

■ Gen Z ■ Millennials ■ GenX ■ Boomers ■ Elders



# STEWARDSHIP AS DISCIPLESHIP

## FREQUENCY OF TEACHING ABOUT GIVING



Knowledge vs. Ignorance

**Optional**

**Discipleship**

Guesses Donors

Knows Donors

Popularity Contest

Stewards Lead

Banks on Hope

Banks on Reality

Ignores Issues

Open about Issues

# Four Mindset Shifts

- Money Follows Mission

- Mission vs What are We Here For?

?

**Mission**

Survival

Mission

Money

Lives

Appeasement

Discipleship

Church

Jesus Christ

# Four Mindset Shifts

- Relationship, Relationship,  
Relationship

- Proximity vs. Distance

**Distance**

**Close**

Fear of Rejection

Passion

Please

Fulfill

Contentment

Growth

Treat like Kids

Treat like Adults

Anything but \$

All Things

## FIRST STEPS

- Stories, stories, stories. Collecting, hearing, and telling stories of good stewardship is key.
  - When you think of your community of faith, what brings you joy?
- Opportunities for Learning
- Personal testimony triumphs over nameless and voiceless asks
- Think quarterly when it comes to stewardship foci
- Ask the question: What would be missing in my neighborhood, community, or city if my congregation disappeared.



YOU CAN STARVE IN A PANTRY IF YOU  
ONLY LOOK AT THE FLOOR...

Remember, your work is to help your congregation turn upward and outward while digging inward for God's work in their lives.

You encourage them to take the next right step in acting on the gratefulness they have for that good work in their lives.

**Generosity is  
what God wants  
for us, not from  
us, Beloved...**

*(Rev. Dr. Micheal Binder)*

## Loaves and Fishes

This is not  
the age of information.

This is *not*  
the age of information.

Forget the news,  
and the radio,  
and the blurred screen.

This is the time  
of loaves  
and fishes.

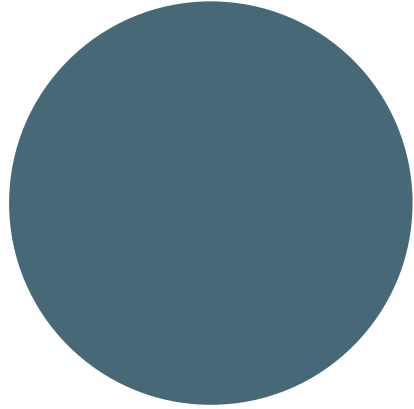
People are hungry  
and one good word is bread  
for a thousand.

by David Whyte

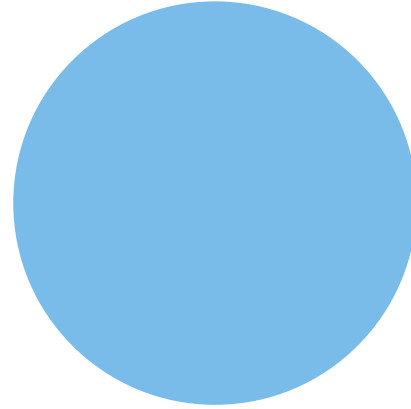
from [\*The House of Belonging\*](#)



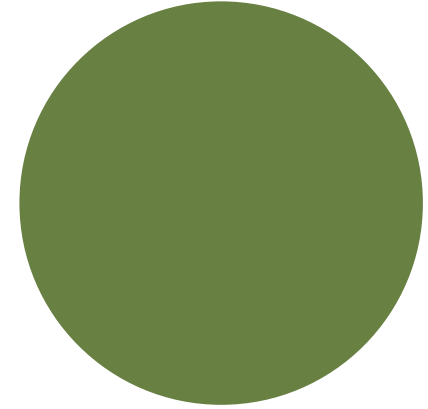
**THE LAST FIESTA**  
PALEHORSE  
2011



WHAT ARE YOU  
WALKING AWAY WITH  
HERE?



WHAT DO YOU WISH  
THERE WAS MORE  
OF?



WHAT IS MISSING  
ALTOGETHER?

*Aha!?* *Take Away?* *Note?*