



Guest Speaker – Mark Elsdon

Mark Elsdon lives and works at the intersection of money and meaning as an entrepreneur, nonprofit executive, author, and speaker. He is the author of *We Aren't Broke*, about the use of faith-based property and investments for social enterprise and impact investing. Mark's new book, *Gone for Good? Negotiating the Coming Wave of Church Property Transition*.

Mark is cofounder of RootedGood, which supports catalytic and innovative church leaders working on property development, money and mission alignment, and social enterprise; executive director at Pres House and Pres House Apartments on the University of Wisconsin's Madison campus; principal at Threshold Sacred Development; and past president of the board of directors for Working Capital for Community Needs, an impact investing fund that provides microfinance funding to the working poor in Latin America.

Mark has a BA in Psychology from the University of California - Berkeley, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and an MBA

from the University of Wisconsin School of Business. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, USA, and lives in Madison, Wisconsin. Mark is an avid cyclist and considers it a good year when he rides more miles on his bike than he drives in his car.

Mark is donating 100% of author proceeds from the sale of his books to nonprofit organizations engaging in creative solutions to address the “wicked” problems he writes about.

Discussion Question

1. What assets does your organization have? These can be monetary, property, people, or other resources that might have been forgotten. Spend a few minutes talking about what you have, not what you are lacking.
2. Read the parable of the Rich Fool together (Luke 12:13-21)
 - a. Why does God call the man in this story a “fool?” What is foolish about his behavior?
 - b. How do you define abundance?
 - c. What points do you think Jesus was trying to make in sharing this parable? How might this parable relate to this moment in the church?
3. Are there under-utilized church properties in your community? What are the current plans for those properties? What will happen to church property in your area over the next decade? What actions could be taken today to improve the outcomes that might emerge on those properties in the coming years?

Resources:

melsdon.com – more on Mark's books and links to podcasts, videos & articles

