

Group 2: Stewardship Through Service

1. What is your vision?

From the perspective of stewardship through service, how do you envision people in your community will describe your congregation?

We want folks to believe we are a congregation that joyfully gives of itself, expecting nothing in return, as we participate with God for the healing of the church, the community, and the world.

2. How is it aligned with God's purposes?

How can the ministry of service help us continually point to God? How can we prompt people to look for Jesus in their service?

Scripture

Acts 1:8

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Matthew 10:8

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food.

Matthew 23:11

⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

3. What is your plan?

How will you develop an increased offering of service among the people in your church?

1. Preaching (i.e, using a variety of examples) linking to communion (prayer following communion), worship (ie, mission moments, commissioning of officers in church.)

2. Giving opportunities/ways to be involved – service activities, reflection time afterwards (see chart)
3. Communication – website/blog geared toward service in general with comment sections, newsletter/ bulletins, newspaper/TV.
4. Discipleship – small groups related to service and get small groups involved in service, activities related to service for kids.
5. Leadership Identify leaders/apprentice those unsure – affirm call/spiritual gifts/ pastoral visits. Find service opportunities. Clearly communicating expectations.

	Church	Community	World
Children	Clean up Sunday School rooms/church	Backpack Buddies	Advent/Lent Quarter Calendars
Youth	Serving as lay readers/position on council	Alliance medical/local charities	ASP/national mission trips/Stop Hunger Now
Young Adults	Youth group counselors		Lighthouse, Zoe, International Ministries
Adults	Read scripture/serve on council/youth leader	Picking someone up for church/visiting nursing home	Zoe (buy animals) Alternative Christmas Market
Family – Friendly	Read scripture/serve on councils/ churchwide clean up day	Singing at nursing homes/ visiting shut ins	Adopt children/become pen pals/prayer partners

4. How will you assess the results of your plan?

Where will you be able to point to evidence of the effectiveness of your work? How will you know the plan has provided benefit to God, the congregation and its people

Qualitative:

- Sharing during Church Service, collecting stories and connecting to a greater faith walk.

- recognizing and thanking active groups – lay person of the year
- setting up a “thank offering”

Quantitative:

- Number of people being served as well as serving
- number of hours served; stories and feedback
- money from budget being spent on service compared to the rest of the budget.

5. What tools do you need?

What resources will help you achieve the goals you set forth in your plan?

- Information on community partners (Rainbow Covenant)
- “Not a Fan” Small group study
- “A Hole in the Gospel” by Mark Stearns
- Preaching: Chuck Campbell on Empowerment Preaching
- Book of Worship – Communion and Sending Forth Prayer
- Identifying missions and needs in the local community
- Discernment and prayer of the Holy Spirit.
- Spiritual Gifts Inventory