

Congregational Stewardship Conversation Starter

Tending God's Garden: Cultivating Gratitude and Growing Generosity

Sudbury Presbytery invites your church to take some time to consider the health of your congregation. It can be challenging for faith communities to make decisions based on mission and generosity. We hope that these questions will help you explore how the garden of generosity is tended in your congregation.

Generosity from a faith perspective is only partly about money. It is understood more broadly as how we use all the gifts God has given us for ministry and mission. Christ's generous disciples are generous with all their gifts – what is your church's generosity story?

This tool is designed to initiate discussion in a group. Councils, boards and committees are invited to share together their collective responses to these questions. Please return your responses to Sudbury Presbytery Stewardship Team through your presbytery delegate.

Healthy Soil: *basic practices and fundamentals*

What is your congregation's mission? Is it practical (realistic and understandable)?

What does the word 'stewardship' mean to you?

Please 'dare to share' one or more stories of generosity in your church so others may celebrate what God is doing among you.

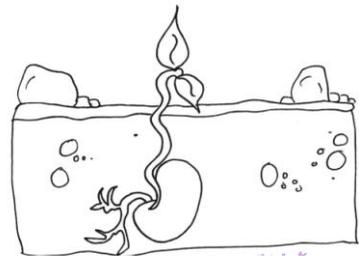
What does your congregation do that changes lives?

How do you share this story with others?

How are individual people involved?

How is the wider community involved?

How are supporters and contributors thanked?



Who provides intentional mission, service and outreach leadership in your church? Describe their activities.

Who is your Mission and Service Fund Enthusiast? Describe their activities.

Does your church set a goal for Mission and Service Fund contributions each year?

Is that goal met (or surpassed)?

Does it increase each year?

What are the different ways your church shares financial blessings? Please check all that apply.



- PAR (Pre-authorized remittance)
- Special Offerings
- Regular giving and envelopes
- Planned giving
- Fundraising efforts (please list)

Describe your church's *regular* (annual or otherwise) giving campaign.

Rich seed: Generosity in worship and education at all ages

Which of the following are being used in your congregation now? Please check all that apply.

- Minute for Mission
- United Church of Canada bulletin covers
- Online stewardship resources
- Stewardship Seconds in your bulletin

- Children's messages and Theme Time
- Offertory invitations and prayers
- Saying thank you
- Acknowledging congregational gifts
- Acknowledging volunteers

Which of the following are most helpful in growing generosity and gratitude in your worship?
Please number: 1 – most helpful, 9 – least helpful

- ___ Minute for Mission
- ___ United Church of Canada bulletin covers
- ___ Online stewardship resources
- ___ Stewardship Seconds in your bulletin
- ___ Children's messages and Theme Time
- ___ Offertory invitations and prayers
- ___ Saying thank you
- ___ Acknowledging congregational gifts
- ___ Acknowledging volunteers

What opportunities do leaders use to nurture generosity in your church?
Please check all that apply.

- Youth confirmation education
- Youth group activities
- Sunday School
- Children's ministries
- Children's time in worship
- Adult discussions in new members classes
- Bible studies or small group discussions



