

Grace United Methodist Church 2009 Stewardship Survey

Introduction

The Gospel of John gives us the essence of **stewardship** when Jesus tells Peter if he loves him then he should feed his sheep. In this 3-part colloquy, our Lord twice uses a verb meaning to feed as in providing sustenance, but the third time he uses a word meaning to care, guide, govern and defend. His message being that it is not sufficient to merely offer the bread of life to the congregation of the Lord, but we must do more.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline identifies five areas in which church leadership should encourage and support stewardship growth: 1. Use of God-given talents, 2. Personal financial management and life commitments, 3. Personal giving through the church, 4. Local church management of resources, and 5. A Christian steward's responsibility in God's world.

In an effort to invigorate, rejuvenate, and further focus this congregation of the Lord, your Stewardship Committee would like members of the congregation to take some time and join us in helping develop a Stewardship Program for Grace. Thank you for your time with this short survey.

1. Based on information in the Introduction, list specific examples of where you see Grace UMC living out our call to stewardship:

2. One way of organizing stewardship activities is by dividing it into five major areas: Praying; Giving; Serving; Connecting; and Leading. Indicate your level of agreement to the following statements using a scale of 1 - 5, where 1 means you strongly disagree with the statement and 5 means you strongly agree with the statement.

Rank	Statement
1 2 3 4 5	Praying is an act of stewardship.
1 2 3 4 5	Giving time and money are acts of stewardship.
1 2 3 4 5	Serving is an act of stewardship.
1 2 3 4 5	Connecting with others is an act of stewardship.
1 2 3 4 5	Congregational leadership is an act of stewardship.

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3. Following is a list of broad stewardship activities. Please rank them on how **important** they should be in the first column; and how **effective** you see that Grace is at carrying out that activity in the second column (circle L, M, or H to rank them Low, Medium, or High in each column).

How Important (Low, Medium, or High)	Effectiveness at Grace (Low, Medium, or High)	Activity
L M H	L M H	Personal financial management assistance and advice
L M H	L M H	Developing prayer / faith / reflection / generosity
L M H	L M H	Programs to develop church leaders and volunteers
L M H	L M H	Pledging / tithing
L M H	L M H	Distributing communications electronically
L M H	L M H	New member orientation
L M H	L M H	Visitor follow-up
L M H	L M H	Continuing outreach for young members (beyond high school)
L M H	L M H	Adult programs
L M H	L M H	Long-range giving (through bequests, foundations, etc.)
L M H	L M H	Adding / improving church events
L M H	L M H	Increasing participation in church events
L M H	L M H	Mentoring and nurturing new members
L M H	L M H	Neighborhood / community outreach
L M H	L M H	Care and preservation of personal / financial / natural resources
L M H	L M H	Communication among Grace members, ministers, staff, leaders, etc.
L M H	L M H	Use of current communication technology (internet, email, etc.)
L M H	L M H	More education on church's financial status / needs
L M H	L M H	Teaching, sharing talents through helping others
L M H	L M H	Supporting electronic giving

4. Demographics. Please share some basic information that will help interpret this data:

Gender: _____ Female _____ Male

Age: ___ 25 & under ___ 26-35 ___ 36-45 ___ 46-55 ___ 56-65 ___ 66-75 ___ over 75

Are you a member of a Sunday School class: _____ Yes _____ No

Which service do you usually attend: ___ Sat ___ Sun 8AM ___ Sun 10:15 ___ Sun NWS

When you have completed your responses, please place the survey sheet in the offering plate or return it to the Church office. (If you are completing the survey from the Grace website link, please save your survey document and email it to the Church office.)

THANK YOU!