Commitment Programs
Festive Meal
All energy focused toward one major event.

Table Hosts are recruited and trained and assigned members whom they invite to join their dinner table group.

Discussion Leaders, who are matched with Table Hosts, are also recruited and trained
Festive Meal

- A wonderful place for the meal
- Joyful, uplifting entertainment
- A training session for all table hosts/hostesses
- Trained table hosts who personally invite others to sit at their table
- Trained discussion leaders
- A brief Bible study
- A brief lay witness, a personal witness and/or statement of vision by the rector and an inspiring keynote speaker
- A signed thank you letter to all pledging households thanking them for their pledge and confirming the amount.
Festive Meal

Strengths

- Provides for face-to-face contact with members of the congregation
- Educational materials about stewardship and the mission of the church can be distributed easily
- Everyone hears the same presentation and message
- Strengthens the sense of being the Body of Christ

Limitations

- Does not reach the homebound
- A large crowd can limit conversation and discussion
- Does not reach those members of the congregation who choose not to come
Cottage Meetings
Each member of the congregation is invited to attend one of many small group gatherings in the homes of Hosts who have been recruited.

Trained Discussion leaders and Witnesses, who are matched with Hosts, are also recruited and trained.
Cottage Meetings

- A host home for every 8 to 10 people in the congregation
- A training session for all volunteers
- A trained host/hostess for each home who will personally invite people to their home and follow up with them
- A trained discussion leader for each home
- A brief Bible study
- A lay witness about stewardship at each home
- Dessert
- A signed thank you letter to all pledging households thanking them for their pledge and confirming the amount
Cottage Meetings

Strengths
- Provides for face-to-face contact with members of the church
- Educational materials about stewardship and the mission of the church can be distributed easily
- The presentation and message about stewardship as a conversion issue is delivered by well-trained members of the congregation
- Strengthens the sense of being the Body of Christ

Limitations
- Does not reach the homebound
- Does not reach those members of the congregation who choose not to come
- May be ineffective if there is conflict within the congregation
Personal Notes
A group is recruited to write their stewardship witness to use as letters and/or bulletin inserts.

These letters should offer personal witness about stewardship and/or highlight a ministry of the parish.

Each home receives six pieces of mail, with the final piece being a personal hand-written note.
The writers attend a training session that includes bible study, prayer and witness with training followed by time to write short personal notes to all other households in the congregation.

- A letter from the Stewardship Chair with a personal witness
- A letter from the Rector offering both a theology of stewardship and a personal witness
- Letters from Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and a respected servant leader in the congregation
Strengths

- Includes all members of the congregation
- Is non-confrontational
- Is great for those for whom speaking about their faith is difficult

Limitations

- Resembles secular appeal for funds
- May be ineffective if discontent exists in the congregation because of the one-way communication
Journey To Generosity
Journey to Generosity

- Available at [www.tens.org](http://www.tens.org)
- Weekly Reflections/Bulletin Inserts
- Pledge Cards
- Rector’s Letter
Developed by Charles LaFond and provided through the College for Bishops at Project Resource

Resources available at http://www.collegeforbishops.org/project-resource-home

12 month approach to the Annual Stewardship Campaign

Expects Leadership to pledge early to model leadership
January - Hand written thank you notes from team of laity

April/May – Publish article: how the last campaign went and an introduction to the next campaign

June - Planned Giving Sunday and Event
  - Advance campaign launch (targeting Leadership)

August – End Advanced Campaign and mail Campaign Warm-up Letters to all non-advance campaign prospects

September - Campaign brochure and pledge cards mailed
  - Sunday or weekday adult formation regarding money, gratitude, and personal budgeting/financial wellness
Mid September - Stewardship Campaign kick-off

Ministry Minutes for 8 weeks with collects and bulletin announcements themed weekly from Ministry Minutes

October - Encouragement Phone-a-Thons

November - Victory Celebration Stewardship Dinner

Pledge Blessing Sunday - Sunday after Victory dinner and before Thanksgiving (seeking all pledges in by this date)

Mid-December - Year-End letter and brochure sent to all donors and donor prospects (members)
Strengths

- Continuous – flows from one year to the next
- Cycle of recruiting leaders
- Reaches all members of the congregation
- Emphasizes showing gratitude with frequent thank you notes

Limitations

- Resembles secular appeal
- Focuses more on obtaining pledges and less on spiritual development
- May be ineffective if discontent exists in the congregation because of the one-way communication
New Consecration Sunday
New Consecration Sunday

- 4-Week Program
- Guest Leader
- 5 Letters to the Parish
- Newsletter Article
- 3 Speakers
- Step Up/Giving Chart
- Leadership Meal
- Catered Celebration Meal
New Consecration Sunday

7 Weeks Before New Consecration Sunday
- Orientation Meeting with Guest Leader

4 Weeks Before New Consecration Sunday
- Newsletter Article
- Hang Poster

3 Weeks Before New Consecration Sunday
- Announcer #1 – Ask for RSVP to Celebration Meal
- Letter to Parish from Stewardship Chair
2 Weeks Before New Consecration Sunday

Announcer #2 – Grow One Step Chart/RSVP
A REVEALING BREAKDOWN OF OUR CONGREGATION’S GIVING PATTERNS

FIND WHERE YOU ARE ON THIS CHART (your weekly giving)

WILL YOU GROW ONE STEP THIS YEAR?

New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program
New Consecration Sunday

2 Weeks Before New Consecration Sunday
- Announcer #2 – Grow One Step Chart/RVSP
- Letter/Invitation to attend Leadership Dinner
- Letter from Rector to Parish

1 Week Before New Consecration Sunday
- Announcer # 3 – RSVP
- Sermon on Tithe and Percentage Giving
- Leadership Dinner with Guest Leader
- Follow Up with RSVP
New Consecration Sunday

Sermon by Guest Leader

After announcements: Estimate of Giving Cards Distributed

Each time we celebrate the Lord’s Supper – Holy Communion – we take in our hands a small piece of bread and a cup with ordinary wine. During these moments, these common elements symbolize the deepest meanings of our faith. During the next few minutes when we take an ordinary pencil and a small card, these symbolize the high and holy commitment we make in response to the love God has given each of us.
New Consecration Sunday

After we pray together, we are going to have a few minutes of silence for you to meditate and complete your card. Once you are finished, we ask that you quietly come forward and place your card here in the basket as a worshipful act of dedication. We know that while some cards are from individuals, many are from families. If your card is from the family, we encourage the entire family to come forward together to participate – together – in this worshipful act.

- Prayer
- Silence While Cards Are Completed
- Cards Are Brought to the Altar As Completed
- Priests Brings to a Close with Offertory Sentence
- Gifts are Consecrated on the Altar
- Catered Celebration Meal Following Service
Results of Giving Announced At Meal

A total of _____ giving units (husbands and wives or single persons) completed Estimate of Giving Cards this year.

A total of _____ of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year’s amount.

A total of _____ giving units present to fill out Estimate of Giving Cards today committed a total of $______.

Based on last year’s giving records, we can expect to receive $______ during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past twelve months but are not present today.
Based on the average total of loose offerings during the past three years, we can expect to receive $_____ during the coming year from that source.

Church income from non-donor sources such as interest, rentals, and fees $_____.

This gives us a grand total of $_____ anticipated income for the next twelve months.
The total income for our general operating budget during the last twelve months was $_____.

Next year, we can expect our operating budget income to increase by $_____.

This is a _____ percent increase in total giving above last year.
New Consecration Sunday

Day After New Consecration Sunday
- Mail Letter and Estimate of Giving Cards to Those Not Present for New Consecration Sunday

1 Week After New Consecration Sunday
- Mail Thank You Letter Confirming Pledge Amount
Consecration Sunday

Strengths
- Faith-based, not budget-based
- Central theme is percentage giving – *What is God calling you to do with the gifts entrusted to you?*
- Participation encouraged
- Spiritual growth dimension
- Immediate feedback
- Easy to execute

Limitations
- Does not reach those members of the congregation who choose not to come
- Expense of catered meal
Questions