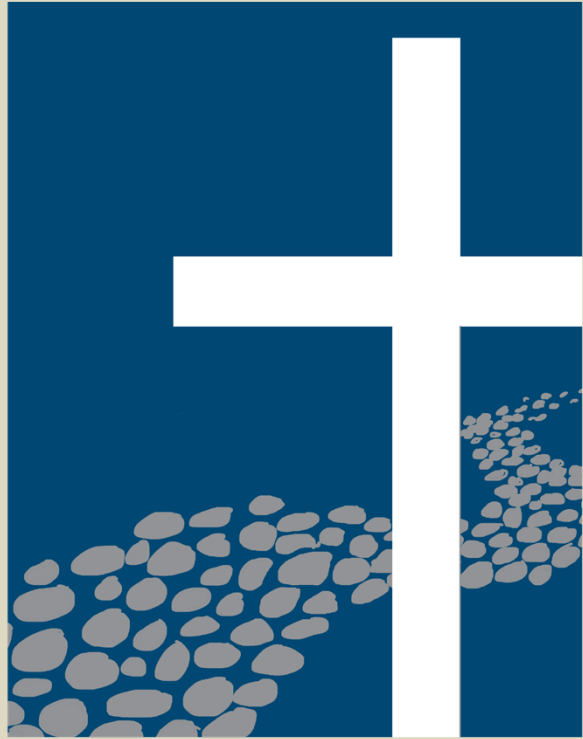


Generations Walking the Way



The Rev. Angela Emerson,
Vice-President, TENS Board of Directors

The Rev. J.R. Lander
President, TENS Board of Directors



Walking
the **Way**

- **Stewardship Narrative Series**
- **Weekly Bulletin Inserts**
- **Sample Letters, Pledge Cards, Liturgical Resources and More**
- **Grounded in Scripture, Theology and Story**





Walking
the Way

Our Time Today



- How to best use this great resources –
Angie
- How generational identity shapes
stewardship journey – *J.R.*

STEWARDSHIP

A PERIOD OF FORMATION AND DISCERNMENT



STEWARD:

A QUESTION OF CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

- A BIBLICAL CONCEPT

1 PETER 4:10

- NOT AN “OWNER”

Genesis 1:28-30; Psalm 24:1

- SHARE NOT CONSUME *GENESIS 43: 16; 2 Corinthians 9:7*

- HONORS GOD WITH EVERYTHING

1 Corinthians 4:1

- SEEKS JUSTICE

2 Corinthians 8:12-15

Exercise 1:

Making the Prayers of the People your own



1. Gather a small group. Read each paragraph slowly , out loud, alternating voices.
2. Pausing between each paragraph, record how each paragraph might be particularized to your congregation.
3. Record any ministries or activities in your community that might be included.
4. If an idea for a new ministry comes to mind, record that as well.
6. Be prayerful and meditative.
7. At the end compile all the notes.
8. Consider using the material to craft a different Prayer to use each week during the six week formation period.
9. Use this time as a beginning point to encourage the outpouring of prayers of gratitude each week.

GENEROSITY FLOWS FROM GRATITUDE.

Exercise 2:

The Pledge Card as a Teaching Tool



Pledge Commitment for Year 2015

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Accept this pledge as a symbol of my/our commitment to follow Jesus through the intentional practice of giving.
I/We offer this pledge in gratitude for all the ways this community supports me/us in following the Way of Jesus.

In faith and prayer my/our commitment is \$_____ to be given () weekly () monthly () quarterly () annually

to _____

1. Reflect on what it means to “follow Jesus through the intentional practice of giving”
2. Share your own gratitude for all the ways your community supports you in following the Way of Jesus.
3. Make a plan for engaging the congregation in these same reflections and sharing.

Exercise 3:

Giving Meaning to the Gospel Narratives



1. Each member of the ministry teams reads and reflects on each of the six narratives that will be used.
2. Which one seems most compelling? Provocative? Interesting? Useful for teaching? Or discussion?
3. What is Jesus saying about how we live in both personally and as a community?
4. Make a plan for helping the community engage these materials.
BE CREATIVE!
 - create your own logo or slogan
 - write a poem or skit
 - write a letter to God
 - share your insights

Exercise 4:

Making Sense of the Exercises



1. First, choose at least two weeks during which the focus is on reflections and education around the pledge card.
2. Next, using the reflections from all of the previous exercises assess where the congregation is in its understanding of stewardship: identity, gratitude, giving, etc.
3. Decide how best to use the Gospel narratives to nurture the congregations understanding of stewardship.
4. Consider which insights, teachings, reflections to be carried into 2015 as on going formation and education.
5. Be creative and diverse in the ways the congregation is invited to engage and respond. Do NOT forget the children....

Exercise 5:

Communicating the Plan



1. Explore as many creative and diverse ways as possible to communicate the formation plan other than letters.
2. Be clear on the theme of Walking the Way. How do the sample letters communicate the theme and relate it to the opportunity to practice generosity?
3. Be clear and repetitive on important dates: Celebration meals, in-gatherings, other special events.
4. Invite the congregation into conversation in every communication.
5. Share personal stories of experiencing God through giving.
6. Share a vision of joining in God's work in the world.

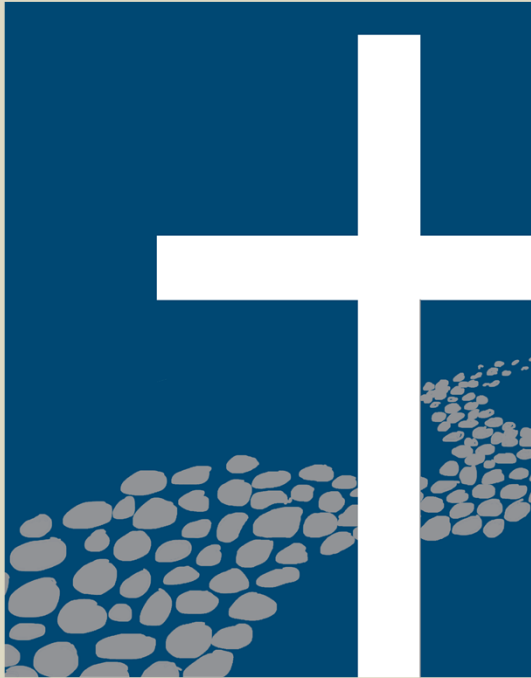
Exercise 6:

The Liturgical Celebration



1. The Pledge: *a biblical concept*
(*Ephesians 1:13-14*)
2. Offering the pledge is an act of worship born of gratitude
3. Include a celebratory feast.
4. Choose hymns to support the theme of
Walking the Way
5. Invite people to place their cards directly on the altar

The Summary



Walking
the Way

ENGAGE

PROCLAIM

TEACH

CELEBRATE

LAUGH

LOVE

REJOICE

Generational Theory



- William Strauss and Neil Howe
- Each Generation Has Common Formative Experiences
- Each Generation therefore has commonalities in their world-view

Current Generations



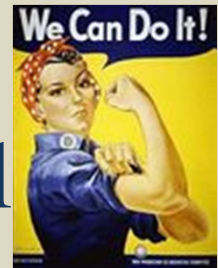
- **GI or Great** (*last born in 1924*)
- **Silent** (*mid 1925 until 1942*)
- **Boomer** (*1943 until 1960*)
- **13th or X** (*1961 until 1981*)
- **Millennial or Y** (*1981 until 2003*)

Great or GI Generation

born 1901 – 1924 (Hero – Civic)



- Shaped by The Depression & WWII
- Civic Minded
- Money is Security
- Trusting of Church as Institution
- Keywords “Sacrifice” & “Responsibil



Silent Generation

born 1924 – 1944 (Artist - Adaptive)



- Shaped by Depression, WWII, and Post-WWII Boom
- Many Poets, Writers and Artists
- Money is Security, Sharing is Commitment
- Trusting of Church as Institution, but not without questioning
- Key Words: “Commitment” & “Responsibility”



Boomer Generation

born 1942-60 (Prophet - Idealist)



- Shaped by the Post WWII Boom, JFK assassination, War in Vietnam, Watergate
- Idealist
- Money is Tool
- Distrustful of all institutions
- Lowest rates of giving, unlikely to tithe or pledge
- Stress “Stewardship as tool for spiritual health”



13th ('X') Generation

born 1961-1981 (Nomad-Reactive)



- Shaped by 70's economic weakness, and 80's economic boom, Church and Public Scandals
- Nomad, Reacting to Boomers
- Money is Tool
- Will be loyal if the church “works” for them
- Be transparent about church finances
- Stress importance of generosity for spiritual health



Millennial Generation

born 1982-2003 (Hero-Civic)



- Shaped by 90's Economic Boom, Technology, and 9/11
- This generation fits the “Hero” archetype
- Less committed to institutions, more committed to friends
- Tend to be attracted to more “traditional” music, worship
- Want to be active leaders – so include them!
- Language to use: “Generosity, leadership & commitment”

Now what?



Walking
the Way

- Target Stewardship Messages
- Determine who you have in your congregation
- Include different generations in your formation and communication
- Do something other than send a letter!

Questions?



Walking
the Way

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