

## Annual Giving Example Case Statements

### Example A

Stewardship is a habit that directs our decisions about how we use the blessing we have received from God. It is an expression of our faith in God's ability to provide, our gratitude for all the ways we have been blessed, and our priorities in Christian Mission. Stewardship is grounded in the belief that blessings are meant to be shared.

Increases in (Church Name)'s budget happen when gifts are made to support ministries that transform lives and when (Church Name) uses gifts to live out the Gospel to serve others, making (local community), our nation and the world a better place. Inside the below brochure you will discover more about (Church Name)'s ministries that your time, talents and dollars make happen. These are some ways in which (Church Name) is touching the hearts, minds and bodies of Christ's people. Thank you for your devoted service and financial support of God's work at (Church Name).

### Example B

Giving is fundamental to our spiritual experience at (Church Name). As God's children, God invites each of us to manage the resources entrusted to all of us, for all of us. We joyfully care for our church, each other, our local communities and our planet. As the church, we are God's presence in the world. (Church Name) is a vibrant community, in which we worship together and share in a variety of ministries in Christ's name. We are nourished by the support and loving encouragement that this community provides. In turn, we are challenged to sustain our wonderful parish and our programs, while being good stewards of our resources.

Stewardship, like any other spiritual practice, only grows through its prioritization in the lives of Christians and the discovery of finding God and grace through that practice. Through understanding that all that we are and have are direct outcomes of God's activity in God's world, we believe that grace and growth in the new life that we find in Jesus Christ will be encouraged. Our response of placing God first directly results in a sense of freedom that comes with faith and increases the spread of God's love in this part of His kingdom. It brings joy to our hearts and minds to realize that who we are is a child of God and what we have is God's to begin with. We no longer are as entangled in materialistic desires, but rather begin to see our lives as gifts and what we have as potential uses for ministry.

## Example C

Prayerfully consider what God is doing in your life.

Prayerfully consider your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully consider what (Church Name) means to you and your family, and what (Church Name) can mean in the (Local community).

Prayerfully consider what God has done in providing for your “goods and kindred,” and what you will return to Him.

(Church Name) does not presume that if you have given in the past your prior pledge will continue to carry over. We need your completed, written pledge to ensure not only the continuation of our many ministries, but to enhance your personal Christian growth.

If you would like to discuss your stewardship, please contact the (Rector) at xxx-xxx-xxxx or (email address).

## Example D

Adapted from [Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation](#)

There are certain characteristics that the Bible lifts up when it talks about giving. The following six characteristics could easily be seen as the values of a steward. We encourage each member of the congregation to grow into the practice of living these biblical stewardship characteristics.

Value #1: Intentional

Being intentional in ones giving means to develop a plan for your giving and then follow through with the plan. One method of being intentional is to indicate the amount you will give in the coming year with a pledge card.

Value #2: Regular

To be regular in your giving means to establish a pattern in your giving and to follow that pattern. Since systems of compensation are different, being regular is to follow your plan according to your own specific way of receiving income.

Value #3: Generous

Generous giving is perhaps the most basic stewardship value. In Luke 12:34, Jesus says, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Generous giving is a tangible sign of your spiritual health.

Value #4: First

First-fruits giving means giving to God first and living off the rest. If you are going to give generously, you need to give first.

#### Value #5: Proportional

The Bible always calls us to percentage giving: “Give in proportion to the blessings you have received.” Those who have much wealth are expected to give proportionately. Those who have little wealth are also expected to give proportionately. The tithe, or ten percent, is obviously the best example of the Bible’s teaching of proportional giving.

#### Value #6: Cheerful

Perhaps the best known stewardship verse in the Bible comes from 2 Corinthians 9:7: “God loves a cheerful giver.” If the first five values characterize your giving, you will be cheerful in your giving. If they don’t, you won’t. It’s that simple.

Giving intentionally, regularly, generously, first, proportionally, and cheerfully will lead a giver’s heart to Jesus. As we live our stewardship values, we increase our giving, not so that our church will have more money, but so that, as God’s children, we will grow in relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.