

Stewards of God's New Thing

Minute for Mission

Kristen Murphy

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Hi, I'm Kristen Murphy and I serve on the Stewardship Committee. We have been hearing some beautiful testimonies each week on why he/she may pledge and missions to consider when making your pledge this year.

I want to take a step back today and go over the basics of stewardship pledging. I'll start with a true story... When I was called to be a deacon and serve on the Stewardship Committee last year, I had to Google... "What is Stewardship Committee in the Presbyterian Church?" I had a lot to learn, especially given the fact I had never made a Stewardship Pledge in my life! I put my offering in the plate, but nothing more. I didn't quite get this "pledging" thing?

So, to those who may be new to this stewardship & pledging thing, like I was last year, hopefully this will be helpful!

What is a stewardship pledge?

- A stewardship pledge is a commitment, made after deliberate and prayerful consideration, to contribute a specific amount of money to the church.
- It is a reflection of your gratitude for God's abundant grace in your life.
- Pledging enables the Budget & Finance Committee to make realistic budget projections for the coming calendar year.
- It's our hope that all households will make a stewardship pledge—even if it is only a small amount per week—as an expression of a vital commitment to Idlewild.

What's a good way to figure out what my pledge will be?

Prayer is a great start! Pledging and giving regularly is a great spiritual discipline. Traditionally, we've been taught to tithe to the church or give 10 percent of our income. However, we encourage you to give what you can, whether it's a dollar, five or five hundred a week.

What if I pledge and my circumstances change?

Your pledge to Idlewild is not a commitment set in stone. It's your best guess of what you intend to give. If you find that your financial circumstances change in the course of a year – that's OK – your pledge can always be revised.

Why should I make a Stewardship pledge and not just put money in the offering plate each week?

If we eliminated Stewardship pledges and relied solely on the offering plate, we would be forced to walk into the coming year financially blind. It would be a scary thing not knowing if the light bill could be paid or if More Than A Meal could continue.

Is the amount I pledge kept confidential?

Absolutely. Only the finance administrator, finance assistant and director of operations are aware of the amount of an individual's pledge, all of whom are employees of the church, not members – strictly business!

How frequently do I need to pay my pledge?

You can pay weekly, monthly, quarterly or all at once. A quarterly statement is sent out confirming what you have given and your current pledge balance, making it easy to stay on track.

How can I submit my Stewardship pledge for 2017?

You can mail a pledge card to the church, fill out the pledge card located in your pew and drop it in the offering plate or you can make your pledge online. We ask all pledges are submitted by Sunday, November 6th!

I have more questions, who do I speak with?

There is a little more information in the bulletin or you may speak to Jim Harwood, chair of the Stewardship Committee.

I wanted to end reminding us of our Stewardship theme ... "We are Stewards of Gods new thing."

I believe God loves doing something new and especially involving us in His new plans. Helping with BASIC & becoming a first time pledger were new things to me last year. At times, these 'new' things made me uncomfortable and occasionally lead me to unseen circumstances. However, they have been incredibly humbling. What New Thing does He have for you?

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