



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH



STEWARDSHIP TEAM

All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of God.

Deuteronomy 16:17 (NRSV)

THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

We acknowledge that everything we have on this earth emanates from God, Creator of the universe. We are governed by a set of moral and ethical principles which remind us that we are to hold all of creation in sacred trust. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to be stewards of God's world. Stewardship, therefore, is about how we use our gifts, both spiritual and material, that God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is our generosity in response to God's abundant outpouring of grace in our lives. Sharing our financial gifts ensures that we can make a difference in our local community through the mission of Central United Church (Central), and across our country and around the globe through the Mission and Service (M&S) Fund of The United Church of Canada (UCC).

The Stewardship Team (Team) of Central is tasked with encouraging the congregation to offer themselves in service to God and to contribute financially to the ministry of the church. The Team invites the congregation to thoughtfully reflect upon the meaning of stewardship and the personal gifts each person has to offer. The Team is also tasked with encouraging the congregation to act responsibly when using the earth's resources. The importance of caring for the earth is part of our commitment to "living in respect with creation." (*The New Creed, UCC, 1968*).

In response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, we recognize our commitment to living in right relations with the Indigenous peoples of Canada as together we steward the land and all of Creation.

GOALS

- Expanding the core of people donating to Central, especially on a regular basis.
- Teaching, encouraging, and modelling good stewardship practices.



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TASKS

The tasks of the Team include:

- (a) Working with the congregation, the Board, and all of its Teams to deepen our commitment to the spiritual and financial viability of Central.
- (b) Planning year-round stewardship programs and events in support of our ministry and striving to keep stewardship in the minds of congregants week-to-week.
- (c) Working with the Worship Team and the Minister(s) to conduct stewardship-themed worship services during the church year.
- (d) Conducting an Annual Stewardship Campaign, highlighting the monetary and human resources needed by Central to meet its annual programming and budgeting needs.
- (e) Collaborating with the Office Administrator and Treasurer in collating, gathering, and studying financial and data information, adhering to confidentiality legislation demanded by the UCC and government bodies
- (f) Consulting with other congregations and the UCC about effective stewardship practices.
- (g) Encouraging the use of a variety of payment methods for receiving regular financial contributions to the church.
- (h) Conducting stewardship courses and seminars to deepen the learning of the Community of Faith (COF) regarding stewardship.
- (i) Creating and developing opportunities to educate the congregation, including children and youth, about embracing stewardship practices, both in the church and in their personal lives.
- (j) Working with the Communications Team to disseminate and promote stewardship education on all of our media platforms and channels of communication, on a regular basis throughout the year.
- (k) Ensuring that donor appreciation is expressed frequently and appropriately.
- (l) Following up each stewardship activity with a personal letter geared to the details of each individual's participation. This involves obtaining contact information and response details provided by the Treasurer and the Office Administrator.
- (m) Developing a Stewardship focus for the Team each year and setting attainable goals, working in collaboration with the Board.
- (n) Seeking sources of funding for the ministry of Central beyond the donor membership base (e.g. foundations, societies, grant applications, business organizations, philanthropists).
- (o) Encouraging fundraising events.

OUR MISSION

To create a safe and vibrant community, in which God's unconditional love is demonstrated by people who choose to follow the teachings of Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.



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- (p) Evaluating the word of the team on a yearly basis, using the following guidelines:
 - a. Setting goals for the Team (e.g., using one Team meeting to set goals and another Team meeting for evaluation)
 - b. Setting goals for Team members (e.g., development of leadership skills)
 - c. Developing questions/surveys/feedback opportunities that target and evaluate outcomes
 - d. Celebrating achieved goals, both of the Team and the Team members
 - e. Deliberating on areas of concern and providing positive solutions.
- (q) Preparing a summary for the Annual Report.
- (r) Ensuring any Police Information Checks (PIC) required by the Duty of Care Policy and Procedures have been obtained by volunteers on the Team.
- (s) Collaborating with other Teams within the church to develop a list of volunteer opportunities.
- (t) Collaborating with other Teams to match the talents offered by volunteers with the volunteer needs of the congregation and its governance teams.
- (u) Selecting and ordering stewardship resources to educate and inform the congregation about ways to care for the earth.
- (v) Collaborating with the Property Team through "greening" initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of our facilities.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Team is accountable to the Board and shall report the activities of the Team to the Board as required
- The Chair of the Team is a Voting Member of the Board.
- The Team shall meet on a monthly basis, except during July and August.
- The Team shall submit a written report of its activities to the Board whenever the Board meets. Such reports shall be attached to the Board minutes.
- Approved minutes of the Team shall be submitted to the Office Administrator to be housed in the Church office and made available to the Congregation and other church bodies upon request.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The membership of the Team shall include a Chair, a Recording Secretary, and at least two other members.

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FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The budget of the Team shall be prepared on a yearly basis, submitted to, and examined by the Finance Team as part of Central's budgeting process.

Budget items include:

- Educational resources
- Stewardship Seminars and Courses
- Stewardship resource packages
- Guest speakers
- Thank you cards and letters
- Conducting a "green audit" of the church property.
- Hiring a grant writer as required.

This document is a living document and can be revised or changed with the approval of the Board.

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