
STEWARDSHIP MINISTERS STEP 1A

Taken from: *Stewardship Manual: A Guide for Individuals and Parishes Developing a Stewardship Way of Life.*
Office of Stewardship, Diocese of Dodge City

We suggest the parish form a Stewardship Council with the general responsibility for stewardship awareness and the annual stewardship renewal. In Medium-sized to large parishes, this will be its own council. In small parishes, a stewardship committee may be part of the Pastoral Council. We suggest that the Stewardship Council not be under the auspices of the Finance Council because that tends to put too much emphasis on the treasure instead of equal emphasis on time, talent and treasure.

The Council could consist of five or more members, less with a smaller parish. Members could be appointed to serve three years.

*Stewardship Council Members, much like the Pastoral Council, could be selected to serve for a specific (for example 3-year) term, with the option of renewing for a second term. To assure having new members, who will bring new ideas, ask your original committee members to commit for 1, 2, or 3 years for their first term. Always select both a chairperson and vice-chairperson to insure the presence of qualified, experienced leadership.

MEMBERS OF A STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

In recruiting parishioners to serve on a Stewardship Council, consider the following qualifications or criteria:

1. Spiritually Motivated - It is important that members be people of prayer and be concerned about parishioners' relationship with God—not merely about the needs of the church. If their primary concern is raising more money for the church or getting more volunteers for the church, then they would not be appropriate to be on the stewardship council. Look also for people who are Eucharistic, who have a deep relationship with Jesus, who are grateful for that relationship and who act on that gratitude. Such persons spend time in studying Scripture and may be people who go to Mass more often than only Sunday.
2. Exemplify and Live Out Stewardship - Look for members who are already personally committed to stewardship as a way of life. They may not call it stewardship but they live it. Those committed to stewardship volunteer their time in various parish and community activities. The pastor will certainly know or can find out about people's volunteer activities at the parish and may even know about a person's involvement in the community. Those committed to stewardship will also be committed, regular and generous givers to the offertory. Again, the pastor will know or can find out about people's giving levels.
3. Envision Where Stewardship Can Take the Parish - It is important that all members of a stewardship committee have the same understanding of stewardship in a general way before they join the committee and, more specifically, after they join the committee and are further formed. Some may see stewardship only as tithing your money; others may see stewardship as recycling paper products; others may see it as volunteering your time to church organizations only. Use the definition of stewardship to help consolidate the diverse viewpoints of the committee members.

It is also important that the members be able to develop a vision of where the parish can be 5, 10 or 15 years from now.

4. Have Personal Qualities that Contribute to Success - Look for people who are accountable (they do what they say they are going to do when they say they are going to do it), persistent, optimistic, organized, patient, creative and willing to share their faith with others.

The Definition of Stewardship:

Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10).