

Using “20 Practices for Growing Stewards in your Congregation”

The ELCA has developed the “20 Practices for Growing Stewards in your Congregation” poster as a resource for congregations to discuss current stewardship practices and evaluate strengths and areas for growth. The emphasis in growing stewards is to understand stewardship as a faith practice which brings joy and spiritual growth to individuals and to congregations.

Twenty Stewardship Practices are identified on the poster. Each of the practices is also listed on the attached guided discussion sheet. The discussion sheet can be copied and used as a discussion starter by church councils, stewardship committees or adult forums as a means toward opening conversation about a congregation’s stewardship practices and planning for the future.

- Copy the attached “20 Practices for Growing Stewards in your Congregation” discussion sheet
- Invite individuals to read and rank each of the twenty statements, answering on a scale of 1 (Yes) through 5 (No) about the current stewardship practices of your congregation
- Then, ask individuals to identify the top three areas where your stewardship ministry is currently strong and growing. Also, identify the three areas where they feel current stewardship ministry practice most needs to improve
- As a full group, invite all participants to share first the practices that they have identified as strengths. Celebrate and give thanks for practices that are working well in the congregation
- As a full group, also discuss the areas identified as those that represent the biggest challenge or where stewardship practices are not currently a part of the congregation’s ministries.
- Work together to identify the two or three stewardship practices that could and should be put into practice in your congregation in the next year. Begin to pray and create an action plan to develop the practices you have identified.
- Refer to the “20 Practices for Growing Stewards in your Congregation” poster for suggested reflections, resources and activities