

Session 3: Communal Generosity

Financial

On a scale of 1 to 9, 1 being rarely true, 5 being somewhat true and 9 being always true, how would you rate the following (circle a number for each statement):

We offer training pertaining to personal financial management.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Financial responsibility in our church is considered an important part of total life management.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Our church is being financially challenged on a regular basis to support the mission and vision of the church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
We have the financial resources to respond to unforeseen/unexpected ministry opportunities.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
The majority of those who attend our church give 10% or more of their income.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
We consistently meet our projected budget.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Our church's financial records are above reproach.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Our church is managing and spending its financial resources in a God-honoring way.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Our church believes in the joy of giving and, like Jesus, gives generously and sacrificially.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

In light of your answers to these questions – how do you rate your church out of 9 on your financial stewardship scorecard? _____

Giving Diagnostic Tool

	Example	Your Church
1. Number of households in the congregation is:	75	
2. The average household income (estimate) is:	55,000	
3. Total estimated income of congregation is(#1 x #2)	4,125,000	
4. Last year's total giving:	130,000	
5. Average dollar giving per household was (#4 divided by #1)	1,733	
6. Average percentage giving per household of total income was: (# 4 divided by # 3)	3.15%	
7. If each home increased giving by 1% of income next year, the church would receive: (add 1% to #6 x #3)	171,188	
8. Dollar and percentage increase next year: (dollar = #7 - #4; percent = #7 - #4 divided by #7)	41,188	
9. If every family tithed to the church, it would receive: (multiply #3 x 10%)	412,500	

To calculate this: Enter info for #'s: 1, 2, 4 and then calculate the other lines based on the info provided.

Average household income can be obtained through Statistics Canada.

What percentage of your annual budget is “given away” – invested outside the scope of the local church? _____

What percentage of your annual budget is given to core?

What percentage of your annual budget is given to giving streams?

What percentage of your annual budget is devoted to local community support? _____

What percentage of your annual budget is invested in other areas? _____

Time and Talents

How many people over the age of 15 attend your church? _____

How many people over the age of 15 volunteer time and talents regularly to church related activities? _____

How many people over the age of 15 volunteer time and talents to organizations and others outside the scope of the local church? _____

You’ve heard of the 80/20 rule – 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people? What does that look like in your church: 80% of the work is done by _____% of the people.

On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being never and 10 being always:

_____ When your congregation is told of a need for people to give time and talents to church related activities, how often is the need met (on a timely basis)?

_____ When your congregation is told of a need for people to give time and talents within the community, how often is the need met (on a timely basis)?

Action Plan

What does this information tell you about the generosity of your congregation?

Is there anything that surprised you about your responses?

Is there a specific area of concern as you took at this information?

Write out areas of immediate and long-term action. Select at least one primary action item that your church will focus on for the next 6 months.

Now take the time to share your thoughts and your action items around your table.