

Session 4: “Ask, Thank Tell”

Lane’s suggested Stewardship Team Mission

“The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God’s people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.” (page 11)

Chapter 9. Thank

“When people are regularly thanked, they will not only feel appreciated, they will feel valuable, they will feel wanted and needed.” (page 104) *During your lifetime, you have had many opportunities to give of your money and your time. What do you recall as a memorable way in which you were thanked for a gift that you gave?*

“There are few things that will build up a congregation more than a culture of thanksgiving. By this I mean a culture in which people feel comfortable and natural expressing their thanks to one another.” (page 104) *In what ways have you been thanked for your contributions to our congregation?*

- ___ *After having turned in a pledge card/ commitment card/ estimate of giving*
- ___ *With your quarterly statement of giving*
- ___ *With any special gift (e.g. a memorial donation, or designated gift)*
- ___ *As a result of community recognition (newspaper article, award, etc.)*
- ___ *As a result of your volunteer work*
- ___ *A thank-you letter from the Pastor*
- ___ *Other?*

Has there been a time when you felt that you should have been thanked, but were not?

“Expand the circle of thanks-givers by involving and empowering others in giving thanks... Find people with the spiritual gift of thanksgiving, and involve them in the ministry of your stewardship leadership team.” (page 110) *Do you have the gift of thanksgiving? Can you suggest someone who does?*

Chapter 10. Tell

“I have long operated with the principle that in the church you need to say something seven times in seven different ways before you can expect that people have heard your message.” (page 114) *List seven different ways our Stewardship Team can tell members about a ministry supported by this congregation.*

“Some of the very best talks in worship I have ever heard have been people telling about a specific mission of the month in the congregation in which I am a member. These talks are always personal and compelling.” (page 119) ***Have you ever given such a talk? What would motivate you to do so?***

“As you tell your story, strive for a balance among local ministry, regional and national ministry, and global ministry. (page 121) ***Name at list one ministry that falls into each category. How have you learned about this ministry?***

Chapter 11. Organizing for Your Stewardship Ministry

“I want to end by going back to the beginning and saying once more that the goal of stewardship ministry is to help God’s people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.” (page 127) ***What is the stated mission of the stewardship committee or team in our congregation? What would it take to formally change it to the mission as Lane has stated it?***

“How can you effectively carry out the stewardship ministry that has been described in the preceding chapters? I want to suggest to you an organizational structure that is built around work groups made up of people selected because of the gifts God has given them. . . . My suggestion is that you form three work groups – one around each of the three main stewardship tasks that I have put forth here.” (pages 123-124) ***How is our congregation’s stewardship ministry currently organized? What would it take to reorganize it as Lane has suggested?***

“I do have a vision of people in your congregation whose generosity grows by leaps and bounds, and discover that this generosity has indeed led their heart to Jesus. I do have a vision of people chuckling, or at least smiling, as they drop their offering into the plate on Sunday morning.” (page 128) ***How has your vision of stewardship changed through reading and discussing this book?***