Center for faith & giving

ARIZONA

FINANCIAL WISE PRACTICE AT ANY SIZE

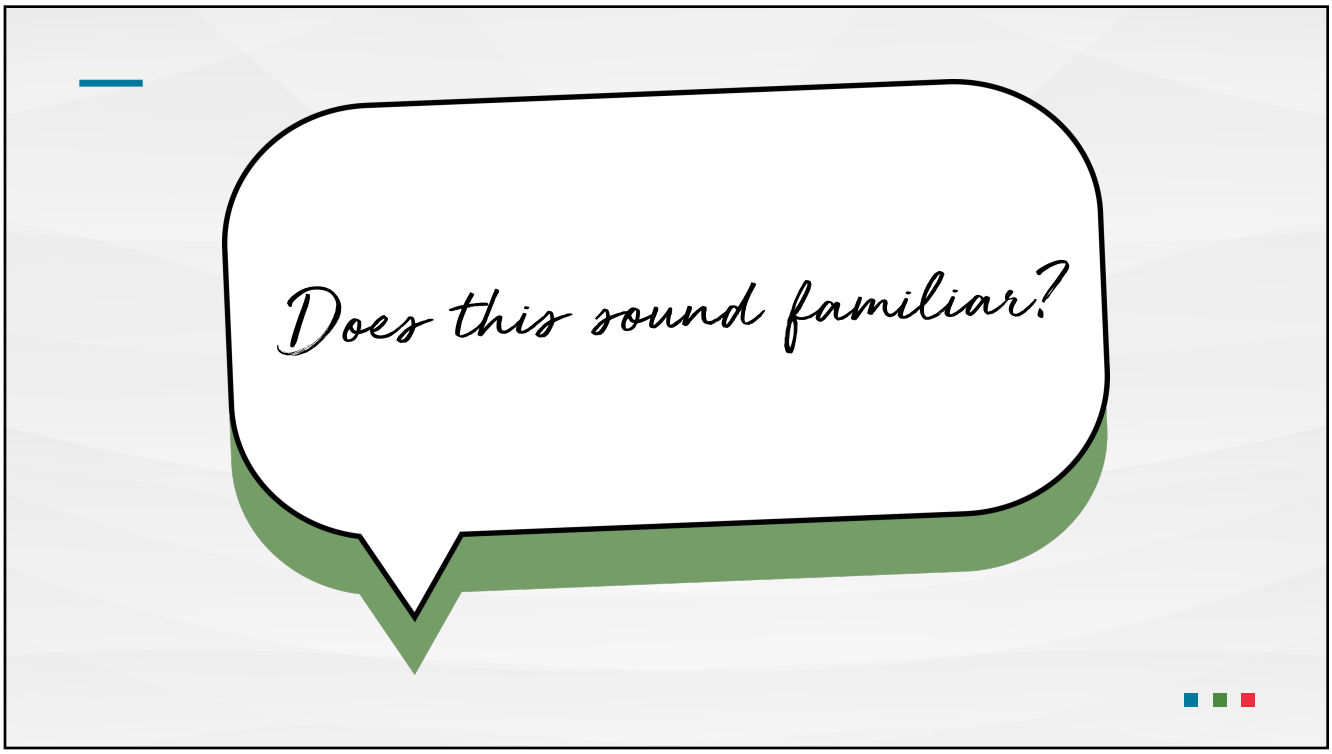
1

MEET OUR BOARD OF STEWARDS

Jackie Byrd
Willie Garcia
Rev. Ching-Hsin (Steven) Han
Rev. Terri Hord Owens
Rev. Sarah Kingbery
Maria Lilomaiava
Rev. Jill Michel
Rev. Derrick Perkins
Rev. Matt Rosine
Rev. Tom Stanley
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson
Rev. Tanya Tyler
Candis Wilson
Rev. Melissa St. Clair, Minister for Faith & Giving



2


Does this sound familiar?

3


FAITHFUL FINANCIAL PRACTICE SCALES TO THE CONGREGATION—NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

4

WHAT IS YOUR CONGREGATION'S MONEY FOR?



5

- GOD IS GENEROUS.
- WE ARE CALLED TO BE STEWARDS.
- MONEY SERVES MISSION.

6


THERE
OUR
HEARTS
WILL BE
"Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also..."
- Matthew 6:21
CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
the United Church of Christ
Office of Philanthropy
and the Center for Faith & Giving,
a ministry of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Center for faith&giving

7


SURVIVAL ASKS:
How do we keep the doors open?
SUSTAINABILITY ASKS:
What does God need this congregation to do—and what financial practices will make that ministry viable?

8

RIGHT-SIZED. NOT WATERED-DOWN.



No financial process should depend entirely upon the honesty, memory, or availability of **one person.**

9

4 ESSENTIAL PRACTICES @ ANY SIZE

1) Clear Reporting
2) Realistic Budgeting
3) Healthy Internal Controls
4) Sustainable Giving

10

CLEAR REPORTING

Every financial report should help leaders answer:

- What **came in**?
- What **went out**?
- What do we **have**?
- What do we **owe**?
- How does that compare with **what we expected**?

...AND SO WHAT?

11

INCOME: $74,382

EXPENSES: $81,114

VARIANCE: ($6,732)

12

REALISTIC BUDGETING

BUDGET
What we intend.

ACTUAL
What is happening.

CASH
What we can actually spend.

...A FAITHFUL BUDGET TELLS THE TRUTH.

13

INTERNAL CONTROLS

Trust is essential to congregational life. But trust is not a substitute for accountability.

14

INTERNAL CONTROLS

Authorization. Who has the authority to approve a payment or expenditure? Is that authority clearly established, or does the treasurer simply pay whatever bills come across the desk?

15

INTERNAL CONTROLS

Access. Who can actually move the money? Who has the checkbook, the church credit card, access to online banking, or the ability to transfer funds?

16

INTERNAL CONTROLS

Recording. Who enters the transaction into the financial records? Who makes sure contributions and expenses are assigned to the right accounts?

17

INTERNAL CONTROLS

Review. Who checks that the records accurately reflect what happened? Who compares the bank statement with the accounting records? Who notices if something doesn't match?

18


SUSTAINABLE GIVING
We don't practice generosity because God needs our money. **We practice generosity because giving helps shape us into the people God calls us to be.**

19


SUSTAINABLE GIVING
Because of your generosity, this congregation is able to

20

- Our leaders receive **financial reports they can actually understand.**
- We regularly **compare budget to actual income and expenses.**
- We **monitor cash flow**, not just the annual budget.
- **No one person** can control an entire financial transaction without meaningful review.
- Someone other than the primary recordkeeper meaningfully **reviews reconciliations or bank activity.**
- Our most important financial procedures are **written down**.
- We regularly tell people **what their giving makes possible.**
- We have an honest understanding of **our congregation's long-term financial viability.**

21

FAITHFUL FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP SOMETIMES REQUIRES US TO ASK, "WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?"

22

THE QUESTION ISN'T:

"HOW DO WE KEEP EVERYTHING EXACTLY AS IT IS?"

THE QUESTION IS:

"HOW DO WE STEWARD WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US FOR THE MINISTRY GOD IS CALLING US TO NOW?"

23

4 ESSENTIAL PRACTICES @ ANY SIZE

CLEAR REPORTING
Tell the truth.

REALISTIC BUDGETING
Make faithful choices.

HEALTHY INTERNAL CONTROLS
Protect trust.

SUSTAINABLE GIVING
Connect generosity to mission.

24

UPCOMING COURSES

Faithful Financial Leadership for Congregations

https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/faithful-financial-leadership-for-congregations/

Faithful Finances: A Practical Guide to Personal Finance

https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/faithful-finances/

2027 Stewardship Sessions

https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/stewardshipsessions/

https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/courses/

25

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26