



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

General Council on Finance and Administration

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Laying the Foundation: Contextual Stewardship

Welcome & Framework

Purpose

- Stewardship is more than fundraising. It's a spiritual and cultural practice.
- Today's goal: Equip you to think about stewardship within your own context.
- Context shapes how people give, what they give, and why they give.
- We will explore culture, economics, and local traditions that influence giving.

Contextual Stewardship

Contextualization

- Contextual stewardship means aligning our giving practices with local values and realities.
- There is no one-size-fits-all model for stewardship.
- The goal is faithful giving, not identical methods.
- Context includes culture, economics, geography, and theology.
- What does stewardship look like in your context?

Cultural Influences on Giving

Culture

- Culture shapes how generosity is expressed — through money, service, hospitality, or honor.
- In many communities, giving is shaped by a shared sense of responsibility — a communal act, not just an individual one. Is this true in your context?
- Tradition, storytelling, and family influence how people learn to give and why it matters.

Economic Realities & Capacities

Economic

- Stewardship must take into account the economic realities of the community.
- Even in financially limited contexts, small and consistent financial giving is possible — and powerful.
- Encouraging financial giving is not about pressure — it's about discipleship, trust, and shared mission.

Conversations

Conversations

- We'd love to hear from you. What does contextual stewardship look like in your ministry or community?
- What has been the most effective way you've seen people in your context support the church financially?
- What challenges make stewardship difficult in your community?

Conversations

- How have cultural values in your region shaped the way people understand giving?
- Are there local models or ideas that could be shared more broadly across the church?
- What would it take for churches in your area to increase their financial giving — even slightly?

A Foundation for Stewardship

Foundation

- Ongoing giving allows the church to plan ahead and sustain ministry throughout the year.
- Everyone can participate in stewardship — no matter how much they have to give.
- A strong stewardship foundation is built on local commitment, consistent teaching, and clear communication.

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!



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