

SELC DISTRICT STEWARDSHIP GUIDELINES

PASTORAL STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father, help me to be a good Christian manager of everything you have entrusted to me in my personal life. Enable me, as a Pastoral Steward of the congregation you have placed under my charge, to lovingly communicate Christian stewardship principles to the lambs and sheep of your flock. In the name of Jesus, the Chief Steward and Shepherd of the Church, I pray. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP DEFINITION

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SELC DISTRICT STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

The SELC District Stewardship Department is committed to the task of Biblically edifying and equipping the saints in God's family of believers to manage life and all life's resources for God's purposes out of love for Christ, their Lord and Savior.

(1994 SELC District Convention Resolution 94-01)

PERSONAL AND CORPORATE STEWARDSHIP

PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION - Parishioners should be intentionally taught to manage their every day lives and personal resources to the glory of God and for His purposes. They should be Biblically motivated with the Gospel love and grace of Christ to utilize their time, treasures and talents according to His will. They should be encouraged and inspired to manage their personal relationships with others with caring, Christ-centered love.

Resource: www.selc.lcms.org. **Stewardship** - Personal Stewardship

CORPORATE STEWARDSHIP PROMOTION - Congregations should be taught, trained and motivated to collectively support congregational, district and synodical budgets, programs, functions and projects. Yes, it is a duty for pastors and congregations to talk about money.

Resources: www.selc.lcms.org. **Stewardship** - Congregation Helps - District/Synod Finances - Pastoral Helps - Information - Posters

I.

THE CORPORATE STEWARDSHIP OF A CONGREGATION

1. Stewardship Chairman - An elected Stewardship Chairman should serve as a regular member of the Governing Board (Church Council - Vestry).

2. Stewardship Committee - A Congregational Stewardship Committee, consisting of three, five or seven members, headed by the elected Stewardship Chairman, should meet when necessary to fulfill congregational stewardship goals.

3. Congregational Stewardship Committee Goals

(a) Personal Stewardship - Provide personal Christian stewardship education for the personal every day lives of parishioners.

(b) Corporate Stewardship - Provide information and promote activities to help members understand corporate stewardship objectives for the support of congregational, district and synodical budgets, programs, functions and projects.

Resource: www.selc.lcms.org. **Stewardship** - Congregation Helps (Stewardship Committee)

II.
THE CORPORATE STEWARDSHIP OF DISTRICT

1. Congregational District Budget Goals - In the Fall the SELC Stewardship Department suggests congregational goals for the financial support of the district budget for the coming year. The suggested goals are not based on a “per communicant member basis” but on a percentage increase of the goal accepted by a congregation the previous year.

2. Budget Goal Form - A form indicating a congregations’ **accepted goal & communicant membership** should be returned to the SELC Stewardship Department by **January 15**.

3. Establishing the District Budget - At the end of January, on the basis of received congregational budget goals, the SELC District Fiscal Committee proposes a budget to the SELC District Board of Directors for approval.

4. Sample District Budget	SELC Missions	\$195,040 (30.9%)
	LCMS Missions/Ministries	138,000 (21.9%)
	Seminaries	13,800 (2.2%)
	Lutheran Haven	50,000 (7.9%)
	SELC Programs	67,400 (10.8%)
	SELC Ministries & Services	<u>165,700 (26.3%)</u>
	Total (Year 2016)	\$629,940

5. Remittances for the District Budget - Contributions for the district budget should be sent to the SELC District Financial Secretary by the **deadline date of January 15**. Contributions received for the previous year after the deadline date will be applied to the new year.

6. Monthly Remittances Recommended - Congregations are encouraged to send contributions on a monthly basis as a priority congregational expenditure. Monthly remittances enable district financial efficiency and a smooth cash flow.

7. SELC Stewardship Department - Four district stewardship representatives serve each SELC circuit. The Stewardship Director has three responsibilities: (1) Provide stewardship education materials for pastors and congregations; (2) Manage the solicitation of funds for the district budget; (3) serve as a member of the SELC District Fiscal Committee. The department has four trained leaders for conducting stewardship programs in congregations . . . “Consecrated Stewards” (LCMS) & “Consecration Sunday” (Herb Miller). For additional information contact tomas1231@sbcglobal.net or call 1-440-582-6140.

III.
THE CORPORATE STEWARDSHIP OF SYNOD

1. Funding the Synodical Budget - The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod treasury is funded by restricted (designated gifts) and unrestricted (district budget) contributions. Synod receives approximately 20% to 25% from the SELC District Budget. In addition, the St. Louis and Fort Wayne Seminaries jointly receive approximately 2%..

2. Sample Synodical Budget	National & International Missions	\$40,183,000
	General & Administrative	6,663,000
	Officers & Administration	5,239,000
	Mission Advancement	5,116,000
	Ecclesiastical Services	4,038,000
	Pastoral Education	3,455,000
	Communications	3,177,000
	University Education	3,151,000
	Radio KFUE Ministry	<u>1,560,000</u>
	Total (Fiscal Year 7/1/2014 to 6/30/15)	\$72,582,000

3. Functioning Together Corporately - The word, “synod” (Greek: “synodos”), means “walking together”. Synod is not an entity above, separate, beyond or off by itself. Every congregation collectively with others is synod.

Rev. Thomas Soltis, EM
SELC Stewardship Director