

# CONGREGATIONAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

## Purpose of a Committee

Webster defines the word committee as “a group of people chosen to investigate, report or act on a matter.” Functioning properly, a committee can solve problems and get things done efficiently. In Acts 6:1-7 a difficulty arose regarding the daily distribution of food. Seven men were chosen to resolve the issue. Essentially they served as a committee to research the acquisition of food and its proper distribution.

## Committee Meetings

Meetings help a committee make decisions. However, they can degenerate into a disease called “meetingitis”, - meeting for the sake of meeting and maintaining the status quo. The story is told about a Russian Czar’s guard who was protecting a patch of weeds. Upon investigation it was learned that 100 years before, a dignitary gave the Czarina a rosebush. She posted a guard to protect it. The rosebush died but no one removed the guard. Committees and meetings can devolve into something similar - perpetuated without purpose, routine, unfocused, confused priorities, directionless. Poorly conducted meetings have been described as “a gathering where people speak up, say nothing and then disagree; an event where you keep minutes and waste time.” However, well structured committees with properly conducted meetings can get things done quickly and well.

## Stewardship Committee Goals

### 1. CORPORATE STEWARDSHIP GOAL

Promote corporate stewardship by encouraging church members to lovingly and generously contribute their time, treasure and talent to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through their congregation, district and synod.

### 2. PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP GOAL

Educate, encourage and inspire church members regarding their personal Christian stewardship in the daily management of their lives to the glory of God in love for Christ according to the word and will of the Holy Spirit.

**A CONGREGATIONAL  
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE  
CAN HELP ACCOMPLISH MORE**

## Stewardship Committee Structure

1. The committee should consist of a minimum of three persons. Larger congregations could have five to seven with additional task oriented sub-committees.
2. The committee chairperson should be an elected member of the vestry/council and report at every vestry/council meeting.
3. Faithful members who practice good Christian stewardship should be appointed.
4. Meetings should be held when necessary and be stewardship education/action oriented.
5. Implementation of action plans could be expanded to include other church members.
6. Stewardship planning should go beyond congregational finances to include volunteerism, time management, personal money management, spiritual gifts, the environment, community involvement, mind & body stewardship, etc.

## Conducting Meetings

1. The purpose and desired outcome of a meeting should be clearly understood.
2. An agenda and necessary information should be shared prior to a meeting.
3. Begin with a devotion and close with prayer.
4. Start promptly and end on time.
5. Stick to the agenda.
6. Reports & information should be shared.
7. Assignments should clearly define: who, what and when.
8. Unfinished business should be noted and the date, time and place of the next meeting set.



## Additional Resource

The Congregational Stewardship Workbook, distributed to SELC congregations, contains:

1. Building an Effective Committee
2. Promoting Year-round Stewardship
3. Planning Whole Life Stewardship
4. Developing Accountability

A few extra copies are available. Contact: 1-440-582-6140 or [tomas1231@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomas1231@sbcglobal.net)