



The Stewardship Foundation of Michigan

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 2 • FALL 2006

This Fall Let's Celebrate Connectionalism!

United Methodists do ministry connectionally. That's part of the genius of our denominational life. Even the smallest congregation is involved in a truly world wide ministry of witness, service and compassion. Let's make Fall 2006 a time to celebrate this vital expression of what it means to be United Methodist. Here are some suggestions of ways your congregation may be able to celebrate.



Greetings from the Stewardship Foundation of Michigan! The Foundation is an area-wide ministry to the United Methodist congregations of Michigan. Our ministry is to assist the 900+ congregations in Michigan achieve their stewardship goals. We offer a comprehensive range of services tailored for both congregations and individual members. Through this newsletter we keep you informed regarding services that may be of interest to you and your church.

October 2006

The theme for the month is the number 10. During the tenth month of the year, each congregation is challenged to consider these activities:

- 1. Dedicate 10 minutes of each worship service** to highlighting our connectional ministries through apportionments and ministry shares.
- 2. Feature a sermon** (by the pastor or a lay person) examining the biblical concept of tithing.
- 3. Receive a special offering of \$10 per person** to be remitted for World Service.
- 4. Feature an adult study group** exploring a stewardship topic or biblical text.
- 5. Use the video resources provided from the United Methodist Foundation** that highlight the local and worldwide ministry through The United Methodist Church.
- 6. Use the resources featured on your Conference Website** for more information (www.westmichiganconference.org or umc-detconf.org).

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The newsletter of the Stewardship Foundation of Michigan is published twice a year by the Stewardship Foundation of Michigan of The United Methodist Church. For more information about the Foundation, call (616) 459-4503 or email wcbumf@aol.com.

Marquette Grace UMC to Host Stewardship Seminar September 23

The Foundation's Stewardship Seminars come to the Upper Peninsula on **Saturday September 23** when the Marquette District hosts a day of stewardship education. **Grace United Methodist Church of Marquette** will be the site for this event

designed for all local church leaders. Registration and refreshments begin at 9:30 am and adjournment is scheduled for 4:00 pm. A one hour lunch break is scheduled at 12:30 pm so bring a lunch or plan to run out for fast food available down the street from Grace Church.

While there is no registration fee for this event, advance registration is requested to assist in our planning. You may register through the Marquette District office or directly through the Foundation. Call the Foundation at 1-888-217-1905 or email us at info@umfMichigan.org

Celebrate Connectionalism! *from page 1*

November 2006

The theme for the month is Give Thanks. During the month of National Thanksgiving, each congregation is challenged to consider these activities:

1. **Receive a Thank Offering** to be shared between local benevolences and World Service.
2. **Feature video resources** provided from your Annual Conference or the United Methodist Foundation that will make your members want to express their thanks.
3. **Use the Conference Website** for additional resources to be used during November (www.westmichiganconference.org or umc-detconf.org).



December 2006

The theme for the month is Advent/Year End. During the season of Advent each congregation is challenged to:

1. **Encourage members to practice the biblical concept of tithing** during the four weeks of Advent as an act of spiritual discipline. Maybe you could offer a "Money Back Guarantee."
2. **Provide each member a Year End Giving brochure** to encourage an additional gift to be received by 12/31/06. Brochures are available through the United Methodist Foundation. See the order form on the next page.
3. **Have your Administrative Council agree** that your church will make the January payment for your 2007 apportionments/ministry shares. Studies show there is no better predictor of full annual payment than the payment of January's remittance.



There is so much of which we can be proud as United Methodists. Surely the Fall financial season is a great time to celebrate and practice the genius of connectionalism.

Stewardship Foundation News Available On Line!

While a single printed copy of the *Stewardship Foundation News* is provided free to each United Methodist congregation in Michigan via U.S. Mail, you can always access



additional copies by visiting the new United Methodist Foundation website at UMFMichigan.org. Go to the Stewardship Foundation page and download as many copies of this newsletter as you please. Why not print copies for your entire financial leadership team? We try to include topics that would make good discussion starters in each issue. Use them to begin a helpful discussion at Administrative Council meetings or other leadership settings. Most of all, let us know how we can serve you even better. We always welcome your calls and emails.

Year End Giving Brochures Can Give Your Church a Boost!

Sometimes all that people need to take the next step is a little encouragement. A recent national survey found that more than 70% of Americans agreed that they could and should give more to charitable organizations and churches. What would it take for them actually to give more? The overwhelming answer was "Someone would have to ask me."

This year the Foundation will again offer attractive *Year End Giving* brochures. These brochures are designed to encourage new and creative extra gifts for your church before December 31. Use them in worship. Send out a special direct mailing. Insert them in giving statements. Even one additional gift will likely pay the entire cost of the brochures and their distribution. Anything else is gravy. What have you got to lose?

Use the order form below to order these attractive, full-color brochures today.

YEAR END GIVING BROCHURE ORDER FORM

Church Name _____

Church Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Quantity: _____ (Minimum order 100)

Payment \$ _____ (\$30/hundred)

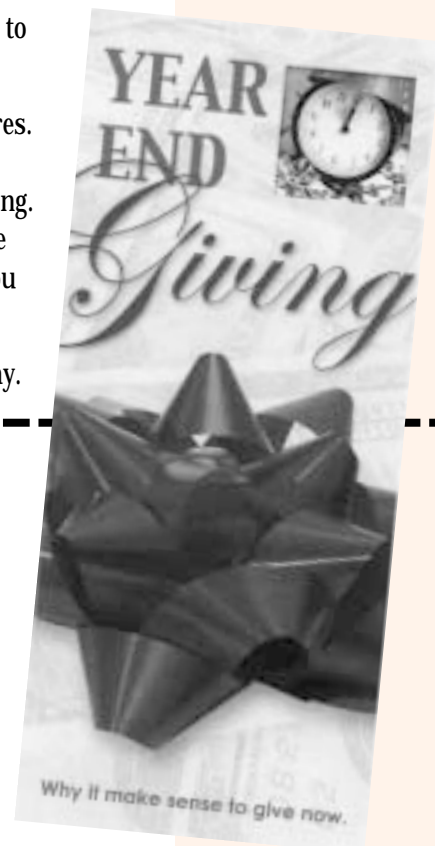
Include payment with your order and receive free shipping!

Please make checks payable to *Stewardship Foundation of Michigan*.

Send order form and payment to Stewardship Foundation of Michigan
PO Box 6247
Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6247

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

What Can the Stewardship Foundation Do For You?

As the ministry of the Stewardship Foundation of Michigan grows and evolves, we would like to hear from congregations here in Michigan about ways we may best serve your needs.

Please call us with your suggestions:
1-888-217-1905.



What Kind of Campaign Would Be Best for Your Church This Year?

As you design your Annual Commitment Campaign this fall, what type of campaign are you looking for? Generically, there are only two varieties: *Base Expansion* and *Upgrade*. Each has its place and could be right for your congregation this fall. Let's look at the "pro's" and "con's."

Base Expansion campaigns have as their goal to expand the number of persons that have made a financial commitment. It is not so important *what* the pledge was as that the pledge was made. Remember the striking difference in giving levels for committed and uncommitted donors (more than \$1,000 per household). It is a rare congregation that does not need to operate a *Base Expansion* campaign at least every four years. Growing churches or those that have experienced significant turnover should consider such a style even more frequently.

Upgrade campaigns are oriented toward those donors *who* have already made their initial commitment but need to be encouraged to increase the pledged amount. The vast majority of church income increase comes from those *who* are already the top donors in the congregation but *who* increase their commitments. Stable and mature churches should consider variations on *Upgrade* as the "default" mode for campaign selection. Use this technique until you are convinced it's time for a *Base Expansion* campaign.

The Stewardship Foundation can assist you in designing and resourcing your campaign. Contact us for assistance.