

# Stewardship

An Overview of Stewardship for your Diaconate



## The Deacon's Role

"In imitation of Christ's mercy, deacons teach us to love God, our neighbours, and the creation with acts of generous sharing, joyful hospitality, thoughtful care, and wise stewardship of all of God's gifts."

*(CRCNA Form for the Installation of Elders and Deacons - 2016).*

## What is Stewardship?

*"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it!" -Psalm 24:1*

*"...I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ." -Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 1*

Stewardship involves understanding that all we have belongs to God, and has been entrusted to our care. It means faithfully managing what we have (stewarding it) for the advancement of His kingdom and to bring Him glory.

This includes the 4 T's of Stewardship: Time, Talents, Treasures and Trees. As followers of Jesus, stewardship is how we can be Christ's presence in our homes, our neighbourhoods and in communities around the world.

## Stewardship is NOT...

**Just about fundraising.** Money is only one of the things that God has entrusted to us!

**Just about being generous.** God cares as much about what we keep for ourselves as He does about how much we give away.

*"Made in God's image to live in loving communion with our Maker, we are appointed earthkeepers and caretakers to tend the earth, enjoy it, and love our neighbours. God uses our skills for the unfolding and well-being of his world so that creation and all who live in it may flourish." Our World Belongs to God (OWBG), #10*

## We Steward our **Talents**

by faithfully using our spiritual gifts, abilities and all that we are in our work, our volunteer service and our relationships with others.



*“God the Spirit lavishes gifts on the church in astonishing variety—prophecy, encouragement, healing, teaching, service, tongues, discernment—equipping each member to build up the body of Christ and to serve our neighbours.” OWBG, #29*

## We Steward our **Trees**

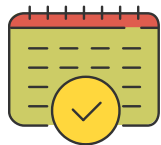
by wisely managing our church buildings and land, and caring for God’s creation so that all people and all creatures may flourish.



*“We lament that our abuse of creation has brought lasting damage to the world we have been given.... We commit ourselves to honour all God’s creatures and to protect them from abuse and extinction, for our world belongs to God.” OWBG, #51*

## We Steward our **Time**

by using our time wisely to connect with God and take care of ourselves, so we can reach out to others.



*“Out of the Lord’s generosity to us, we give freely and gladly of our money and time.”  
OWBG, #48*

## We Steward our **Treasure**

by faithfully managing our money, our homes - all of our tangible “stuff” - to love our neighbours and glorify God.



# Helping Churches Live Stewardly

As part of their mandate, Deacons are called to equip and empower their congregation by:

- **Providing** a comprehensive understanding of Stewardship;
- **Promoting** ways church members can "practice" and live out good stewardship in all four areas listed above;
- **Creating** an awareness of how the CRCNA stewards our shared

commitments through ministry shares;

- **Encouraging** members to 'excel in the grace of giving' (2 Cor. 8:7).

In order to equip and empower Deacons, Diaconal Ministries Canada collaborates with Christian Stewardship Services (CSS) and with the CRCNA in Canada.

To find out more, contact us today:  
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