

THE FOUR T'S OF STEWARDSHIP: TALENTS, TREASURES, TREES & TIME



The Deacon's Role

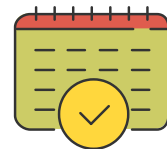
"Exercise your office with prayer, patience, and humility. Teach us to be merciful and to seize new opportunities to worship God with offerings of wealth, time, and ability. Encourage with words that create hope in hearts and with deeds that bring joy into lives...Let your lives be above reproach; live as examples of Christ Jesus; look to the interests of others."

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

"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31

I keep busy working and volunteering at church. I'm great at stewarding my time, right?



Not necessarily. The stewardship of time isn't just about being as productive as possible. It's about using our time wisely to accomplish what God has called us to do. That means, in addition to serving others, we need time with God to discern His calling, time to rest and be renewed, and time to care for our physical bodies.

Good stewardship of Time might include visiting with a friend, praying, exercising, or volunteering. There really is a time for everything!

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people..."

Galatians 6:9-10

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"There is indeed a time to hurry and a time to wait. The frantic pace of overanxious 24/7 attentiveness and endless electronic connection requires that our accent... must be on the side of slowness. Whereas speed is all on the side of commoditization, slowness is all on the side of neighborliness." -Walter Brueggemann, Materiality as Resistance

What does this look like, in practical terms?



Stewardship of Time might include:

- conducting a "congregational volunteer hours audit" and celebrating the many ways people are serving with gifts of Time
- hosting a book or Bible study about spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, simplicity, confession and celebration
- identifying opportunities in your community where people in the congregation can volunteer their time to help other organizations
- holding a "Service-Worship Sunday", where the congregation goes out to serve in the community during the regular worship service time
- starting a health ministry in your church to promote and support the congregation's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness (proper self-care is time well spent!)



"So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation."

Genesis 2:3

"The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath."

Mark 2:27

Questions for Reflection:

- Why is our stewardship of Time so important?
- How can we seek God's will about where we should spend our Time?
- Where are we most prone to wasting our Time?
- Are we keeping our Time for ourselves or do we freely share our Time and presence with others?
- How can we use our Time to show that Jesus is our Lord?



To find out more or get helpful resources, contact Diaconal Ministries Canada today:
dmc@crcna.org or 1-800-730-3490.