

## **A Scriptural Foundation For Competencies of a Well-formed Stewardship Leader**

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through the authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through these words it is also possible to develop a way of thinking about what it means to be a steward.

The focus of the *Competencies* documents for Rostered and Lay Leaders is on the growth of individuals who are healthy steward leaders, and shape stewardship ministry in the congregation and beyond. Competencies is one way to think about the attributes or assets of a well-formed stewardship leader.

The six areas in the Competencies documents provide a framework for the breadth and depth of a well-formed steward leader. Within each of these six areas, there are several stewardship themes. The related texts call to our attention specific stories or lessons. Some phrases or texts are familiar from different translations. For the purposes of this document NRSV is used unless otherwise indicated.

These texts can be used as a basis to Engage, Discern and Shape what it means to be a steward leader in each of the six areas. These can also be used in devotions and as teaching points.

### **1. Trusts God's Abundance – Peter and casting the net for fish – Luke 5:1-11**

- a. Believes that we are called and freed to be caretakers of all that we are and have – Parable of the Rich Young Man and Jesus – Luke 18:18-25
  - i. “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof” – Psalm 24
  - ii. “Replenish the earth” – Genesis 1 (KJV)
  - iii. “Christ has set us Free! This means we are really free. Now hold on to your freedom” – Galatians 5 (CEV)
- b. Participates in and with God's generosity and an attitude of abundance rather than scarcity, for the sake of the healthy of the whole

Parable of the Sower – Luke 8:4-8

  - i. “Rejoice in all the good which the Lord your God has given you and your household” – Deuteronomy 26
  - ii. “God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may provide in abundance for every good work” – 2 Cor 9:8
  - iii. “Glorify God and build up the body of Christ” – 1 Cor. 12 and 14
- c. Embodies an attitude of abundance rather than scarcity, generosity and sustainability, and ongoing assessment of the integrity of our choices

Mary and Martha – Luke 10:38-42

  - i. “God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love” – Ex 34:6, Psalm 51:1, 69:16, 86:5
  - ii. “Choose this day whom you will serve” – Joshua 24

- d. Is able to motivate a community journey through mission interpretation, gratitude for partnership, reframe conversation to highlight assets (not just money), and cast a vision for a vital future – Paul and Barnabas – Acts 13
  - i. “Rejoice...give thanks in all circumstances – 1 Thess 5
  - ii. “Where there is no vision the people perish” – Proverbs 29:18

**2. Grounds in biblical and theological principles** – Paul and Timothy – 2 Tim 3:10-17

- a. Believing biblical and theological principles (Trinitarian orientation – creator, redeemer, sustainer) – Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5-7
- b. Listening to and interpreting all of scripture with an ear for stewardship themes, and aware of history of stewardship in the life of the church – Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5:1-11
  - i. “All who believed were together and had all things in common” – Acts 2
  - ii. “How shall they hear unless...” – Romans 10
- c. Teaching and preaching Scripture from holistic orientation
  - i. “Blessed are they that they that hear the Word of God and keep it”- Luke 11:28
  - ii. “Faith come by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” – Romans 10:17

**3. Holds a holistic perspective**

- a. Stewarding our whole lives
  - i. “Glorify God in your body and your spirit which are God’s – 1 Cor 14
  - ii. “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice...to God” – Romans 12
- b. Stewarding our time and energy – sloth, laziness, carelessness, time management, nutrition, rest
  - i. “Become all things to all people” – 1 Cor 9:19-23
  - ii. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind” – Deu 6:5
- c. Growing in wisdom – developing our minds, faith practices, life-long education; articulating our personal steward journey and helping others articulate theirs
  - i. “Let your light shine” – Matthew 5:13-16
  - ii. “Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry” – Ephesians 4:15-16

**4. Perceives connectedness**

- a. Nurturing our primary human relationships – family, marriage, parenting sons and daughters, care for parents – Care for the Widows – Acts 6:1-6
  - i. “Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church... Wives, respect your husbands” – Ephesians 5:25-26
  - ii. “Children, obey your parents... Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath” – Ephesians 6:1-4
- b. Nurturing our faith community – corporate and communal relationships, congregation, church, Sabbath, worship, renewing our baptism, attendance at the Lord’s Supper, faithful in worship, prayer, attendance at Lord’s Supper, renewing our baptism, Bible reading, serving and caring for others; without blaming or judging others, yet judging actions
  - i. “Do good to all, especially those of the household of faith” – Galatians 5
  - ii. “Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? Why do you pass judgment on one another?” – Romans 14:1-6

- iii. “Keep an eye on those who cause dissensions and offenses... avoid them.” Romans 16:17-19

## **5. Engages and critiques culture**

- a. Engaging, contributing and developing our civic community
  - i. “Do not be conformed to this world” – Romans 12:1-2
  - ii. “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities” – Romans 13
- b. Praying and contributing to good government, for harvest, for those who provide us with safety, caring of the earth, and all creation
  - i. “Pray for those who persecute you” – Matthew 5:43-48
  - ii. “Pray constantly” – 1 Thessalonians 5:

## **6. Embrace financial health as an expression of faith**

- a. Managing finances, eliminating debt, planning ahead, setting priorities for spending, saving for the future; cautioning against storing our excess, accumulating, being greedy – Parable of building bigger barns Luke 12
  - i. “Owe no one anything, except to love one another” – Romans 13:8
  - ii. “Count the cost before you build” – Luke 14:25-33
- b. Giving generously, living as disciples, servants of all
  - i. “God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may be able to provide in abundance for every good work” – 2 Cor 9
  - ii. “We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord” – Romans 14:7-8

Note: Biblical references are NRSV, unless otherwise indicated

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