

THE GENEROSITY PROJECT



The Generosity Project provides an opportunity for pastors to learn how to re-frame the conversation around stewardship and nurture generosity in congregations. Past participants are noting a decrease in anxiety in themselves and in their congregations around stewardship, an increase in comfort level and joy around nurturing generosity, and for many, an increase in overall giving.

The Generosity Project participants share:

“ I have really appreciated the deeper level of learning made possible in an extended program like the Generosity Project. Meeting (virtually) with other clergy once a month has kept me thinking about generosity throughout the year rather than only at budget time and allowed me the accountability I need to keep up with reading and learning beyond the weekly tasks of sermon prep and regular administration. The Generosity Project is helping me to think differently about stewardship in my congregation both on the theoretical/theological level and at the practical level.”

“ I have struggled for years with the usual church attitude toward stewardship as a necessary evil. We have to be able to talk about money with integrity and authenticity, in an atmosphere free from manipulation or guilt. The Generosity Project has provided vitally helpful resources to help reshape the conversation and a safe peer environment to explore methodologies. I have greatly appreciated that the overall tone of the Project has been one of discovery and grace. This approach has allowed us to explore the established assumptions of stewardship theology without getting bogged down in them.”

“ I believe the project was a huge success! I know my church benefitted immensely and will reap the benefits for years to come.”

Who can participate?

The Generosity Project is designed for pastors and churches who are struggling with stewardship, who want to learn how to change habits, attitudes, and perspectives around stewardship, and who have capacity for new learning and change. Participants can be senior or sole pastors, paid staff who have leadership roles in stewardship, and bi-vocational pastors who are able to commit to the time the project requires.

What will participants do?

Participants will meet monthly using a video platform for 12 months, in 4 three month learning cycles. The video format reduces the time needed by eliminating travel and provides great flexibility for busy pastors. The cohort meets with a trained facilitator who will coach a cohort of about 5-7 pastors. Participants receive all the books used in The Generosity Project for free, thanks to ABCUSA United Mission giving support.

How long are the cohort meetings?

The Generosity Project starts with 2 workshops with Rev. Emerson to orient participants to the concepts and format of The Generosity Project. Each workshop is 2.5-3 hours long. Monthly cohort meetings will typically last 1-1.5 hours. Once every quarter, the regular cohort meeting is replaced by a one-hour webinar with a leader in the field of stewardship and leadership.

What are some topics in The Generosity Project?

Topics in The Generosity Project include: how to re-frame the stewardship conversation, skills for adaptive leadership, approaching stewardship as an adaptive challenge, stewardship leadership, money and ministry, and building confidence in leading others to greater generosity.

How will The Generosity Project encourage change and growth?

In addition to receiving new learning through books and webinars, cohorts will explore techniques for re-framing the stewardship conversation and create experiments to nurture generosity in their congregations. In this way, The Generosity Project will meet the particular and unique needs of a congregation. It is not a “one size fits all” approach to stewardship.

What other resources does The Generosity Project offer?

Participants will have access to The Generosity Project website and resources, including a bi-monthly blog from leaders in the field of stewardship and generosity, and 4 free books utilized in The Generosity Project. You are welcome to check out the website at <http://www.abc-usa.org/generosityproject/>.

How can I participate?

If you are interested in further exploring participation in The Generosity Project, please contact **The Generosity Project Coordinator, Rev. Stacy Emerson**, via email at stacy.emerson@abc-usa.org or at 800-ABC-3USA ext. 2010.