

Readings for Generous Spirits: Transforming Stewardship

General Stewardship Resources

There are a great many resources to help you in your work towards creating a more organic, embedded understanding of stewardship of your congregation or cause. Here are a few readings that we particularly recommend in the spirit of this worship workshop.

- **Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship** by J. Clif Christopher

Unlike leading nonprofit agencies and institutions, we too often fail to convince potential givers that their gifts will have impact and significance. In this book, Christopher lays out the main reasons for this failure to capture the imagination of potential givers, including our frequent failure simply to ask. Written with the needs of pastors and stewardship teams in mind. From a Christian perspective; some translation necessary.

- **Making the Annual Pledge Drive Obsolete: How Churches Can Get Out of This Business Once and For All** by Michael Durall & Timothy Dombek

This slim volume is thick with helpful material, and could be used by congregations where there is a desire for serious change in the usual stewardship efforts. Good stewardship material is not for the faint of heart, and this volume offers no easy bromides, convenient shortcuts, or gimmicks. Rather, the authors address giving in a positive community-building manner. The introduction reminds the reader that generosity can be “just plain fun” as well as being a deeply religious act. We need more of this kind of bravery in our tradition!

- ***The Soul of Money: Reclaiming the Wealth of Our Inner Resources*** by Lynne Twist

Global activist Lynne Twist, through personal stories and advice, re-imagines our attitudes about money. Twist takes us from feelings of scarcity and burden to feelings of freedom and abundance. Twist shows us that money can be an effective tool to create meaningful and positive change.

- **Asking: A 59-Minute Guide to Everything Board Members, Volunteers, and Staff Must Know to Secure the Gift** by Jerold Panas

In this quick, straightforward book readers are given tools and vignettes to take some of the anxiety out of asking for money, replacing it with excitement for our respective causes.

Worship & Unitarian Universalist Congregation-Specific

These resources are helpful for inspiration as you plan your own stewardship services and consider integrating stewardship throughout your Church year. For even more UU-specific, updated Stewardship resources check out the UUA's Congregational Stewardship Network page: www.uua.org/finance/fundraising/

- **The Perfect Gift: The Philanthropic Imagination in Poetry & Prose;**
ed. Amy A. Kass

A wonderful exploration of philanthropy through the lens of authors as varied as Edith Wharton, Shakespeare, Rabindranath Tagore and many, many more.

- **The Abundance of Our Faith: Award-Winning Sermons on Giving;**
ed. Susan Milnor & Terry Sweetser

A series of inspiring sermons from Unitarian Universalist Ministers on spirituality, abundance and generosity. Edited by Rev. Terry Sweetser, former UUA Vice-President of Stewardship & Development and Rev. Susan Milnor, a Unitarian Universalist Minister.

- **The Wisdom Path: Money, Spirit & Life** by Patricia Hall Infante and David H. Messner; Developmental Editor: Gail Forsyth-Vail

A 12-workshop Tapestry of Faith Program for adults that explores the myriad of ways that our financial lives intersect with our religious and community lives. Free download at: www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/wisdompath/

- Composed by Rev. Vail Weller, UUA's Congregational Giving Director, & Rev. Darcy Roake, Donor Relations Specialist at the UUA, for Generous Spirits: Transforming Stewardship (Thursday, June 26; 2:15 PM - 3:30 PM)