

# FORTH

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A Stewardship  
Development Program



***Growing Stewardship Among  
Committed Congregations***

with

Mark Ewert and Wayne Clark



# Congregational Stewardship Network

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# Accommodations



## **FORTH Elevator Speech**

FORTH is a social networking program to help congregations grow a year round culture of spiritual generosity.

FORTH encourages a community of congregational leaders to create and share a diverse library of free web-based materials.



## Brief History

- \*2003 Concerned about focus on \$\$\$
- \*2007 Introduced in *Beyond Fundraising*
- \*2007-2010 Demonstration Project
- \*2011 Analysis of data
- \*2012-2013 Mark Ewert enhanced FORTH



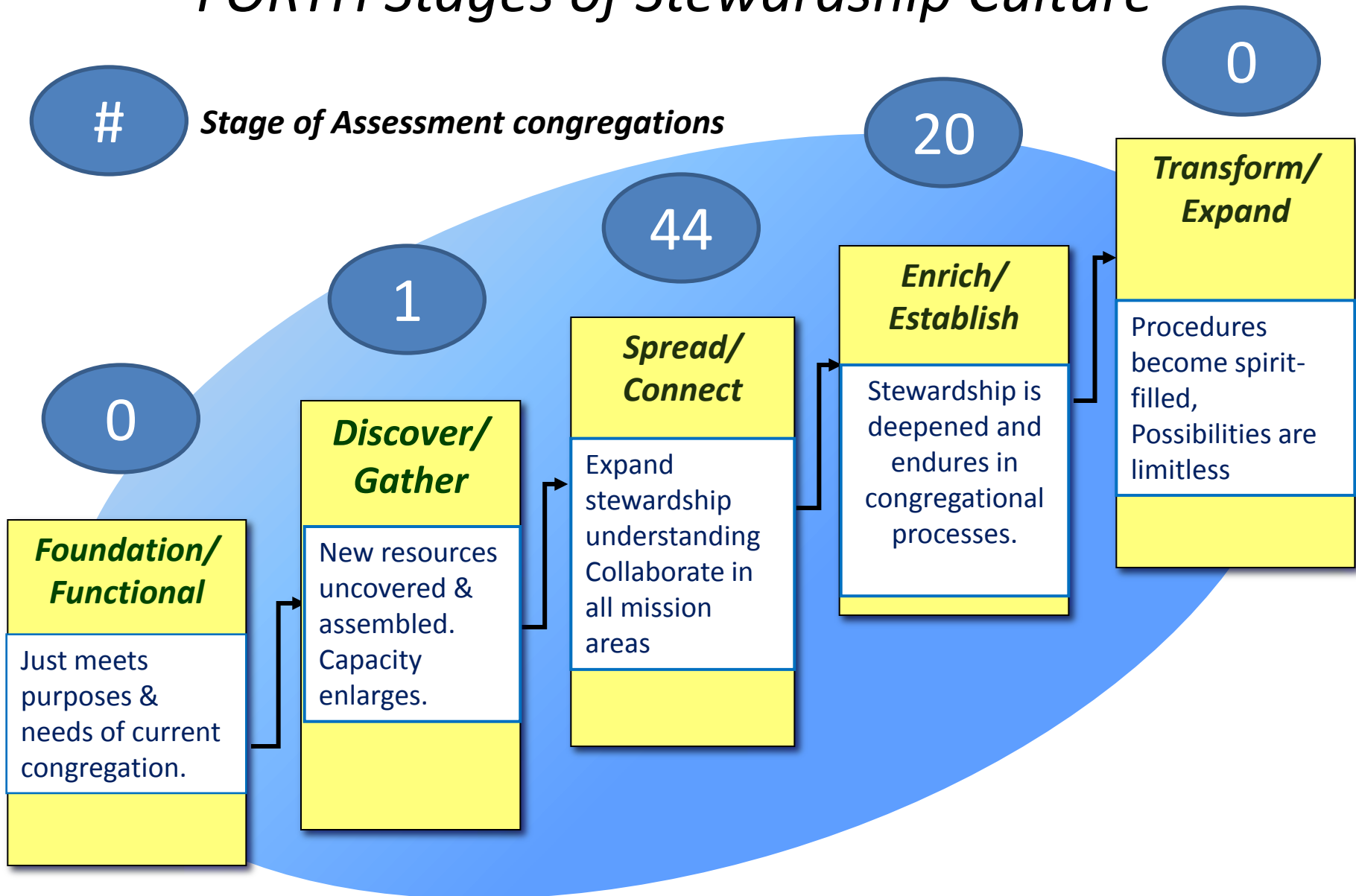
# FORTH *Now*

## Overall Numbers

- ▶ Total number of individual Self- Assessments taken = **632**
- ▶ Congregations having taken the Self-Assessment (5 individuals ea.) = **43**
- ▶ Congregational *Partners* (returned signed Covenant) = **27**
- ▶ Number of *people* in Facebook group (minus consultants and staff) = **62**



# Congregational Self-Rating: FORTH Stages of Stewardship Culture



# FORTH *Now*

## Peer Leaders

- ▶ Six members from FORTH Partner Congregations have been meeting
  - ▶ Regular conference calls since February, 2013
- ▶ Created idea for Digital Clusters
  - ▶ Gathering FORTH Partner congregations for information and resource sharing
  - ▶ Matching by size and presence of professional clergy
  - ▶ Created a guidance document
  - ▶ Each Cluster to have a Peer Leader as host
- ▶ Are just rolling this out now







## *Self-Assessment Intelligence*

### Doing Fairly Well with Stewardship:

What are these congregations doing well?

- ▶ We have an intentional plan to welcome and nurture new congregants.
- ▶ The expectations of membership are clear and include contributions of time, talent, and treasure.
- ▶ Congregational income and expenses are clear and transparent.
- ▶ The congregation makes full Fair Share contributions to the UUA Annual Program fund and to the District.
- ▶ Building rentals are not relied upon as a significant source of financial support.



**Use FORTH *data***

## *Self-Assessment Intelligence*

### Doing Fairly Well with Stewardship: What do they say they can improve?

- ▶ The annual budget provides financial support for leaders to attend local, regional, and national events.
- ▶ Year-round stewardship activities are closely related to the congregational mission/vision.
- ▶ We honor congregants' legacies with planned giving/memorial programs.
- ▶ There are year-round stewardship education opportunities for congregants.
- ▶ Parents are given information and support to help educate their children about values, money, and charitable giving.



**Use FORTH *data***



## *Self-Assessment Intelligence*

### Facing Challenges with Stewardship: What do they say they can improve?

- ▶ The Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide is widely used and congregants indicate when they are Fair Share givers.
- ▶ Stewardship is understood as part of faith development and is directly related to living our values.



Use FORTH *data*

# *Active Learning* In Stewardship

- ▶ Technical Solution VS Adaptive Questions



# *Active Learning* In Stewardship

- ▶ Language in the Annual Budget Drive Brochure



Powerful Question!



## Contact Information

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