

Stewards of the Mission of God

Opening prayer

Stewardship and Mission

Stewards are appointed when there is a need for someone who will be able to make difficult choices in crisis situations. Stewards are authorized to choose and speak and act in the name of the one who has appointed them. It is critical that the steward must understand the intentions and purposes that the owner has for the household and always must seek to make choices about the household that serve those intentions.

A steward must support in every way possible the mission of the one who has placed the steward in charge. A steward must internalize that mission, so that it becomes a basic part of who the steward is.

Stewards of God's Mission

Read Luke 4:14-21. This is Luke's account of the very beginning of Jesus' ministry. Note that Jesus announces himself to his people by means of a mission statement.

Read Luke 24:44-49. At the conclusion of Luke's gospel, Jesus entrusts his mission to the stewardship of his followers.

List the chief components of Jesus' mission statement in Luke 4:18-19. Think about the decisions that you made at your congregation's annual meeting this year. In what way were those choices shaped by your awareness that your congregation has been entrusted with stewardship of the mission described in Luke 4:18-19?

Empowered for mission

Read Acts 2:1-3, and John 7:38-39. Note the three images for the Holy Spirit in these passages: wind, fire, and moving water. Throughout the centuries, wind, fire, and water have been humankind's principle sources of power. Reflect on the broad sweep of your congregation's mission.

Discuss occasions when the Holy Spirit seems to have worked among you and through you in surprising ways that have served the mission God has entrusted to you. Think about occasions when your mission was undermined by a lack of sustaining energy. In what ways might you as individuals and as a congregation be more open to the moving of God's spirit in your midst?