

## **18 most effective practices used by congregations strong in stewardship:**

- A. They hold a commitment that stewardship is important. Their vision planning includes stewardship. They are clear about their purpose and mission.
- B. They give away a growing percentage of congregational income for ministries of the whole church.
- C. They practice first fruits and proportionate giving for mission support (benevolence) for the whole church.
- D. They build relationships with their members through personal contacts.
- E. They provide multiple opportunities for giving and serving.
- F. They foster spirit-filled giving and prayer development, emphasizing the connection between faith and money.
- G. They identify, explore, and nurture spiritual gifts of members, helping them to fulfill their passions.
- H. They develop an “asset-based” climate, using members’ assets rather than meeting needs.
- I. They develop year round stewardship programs.
- J. They ask boldly.
- K. They thank profusely and often.
- L. They engage in annual every member response programs for financial commitments, estimates of giving or pledges.
- M. They provide programs for regular (undesignated) and over-and-above (designated) giving.
- N. They use a program budget in addition to a line item budget.
- O. They separate stewardship programs from budget preparation.
- P. They provide quarterly reports on member giving to the membership.
- Q. They establish mission endowment policies.
- R. They model first-fruits giving by sharing a percentage of their corporate income for ministry beyond the congregation.

