Being a steward
The only gift is a portion of thyself.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Giving is a necessity sometimes... more urgent, indeed, than having.

Margaret Lee Runbeck
STEWARDSHIP
IS EVERYTHING
I DO
AFTER
I SAY
I BELIEVE !
"If you wish to be perfect,
go, sell your possessions,
and give the money to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven."

Matt. 19:21
When the 7th day is recovered as the Sabbath, we will have time for generosity!

Walter Brueggemann
We are living in a time of great abundance, perhaps the greatest ever.

Why do we act like it is a time of scarcity?

Are we ruled by fear rather than love?

Ken Neher
Stewardship:...

is the willingness to be accountable for the well being of the larger organisation by operating in service, rather than control of those around us.

Simply it is accountability without control or compliance.
Discovering how to govern, to ensure the well being of our community, is how we create meaning in what we do.

This is the spiritual stream in which we stand.

Stewardship encompasses concerns of the spirit but it also must pass the test of the market place.

Peter Block
Stewardship holds the possibility of shifting our expectation of people in power.

Part of the meaning of stewardship: is to hold in trust the well-being of some larger entity – our organisation, our community, the earth itself.

To hold something in trust calls for placing service ahead of control, to no longer expect leaders to be ahead and out front.

There is a pride in Leadership, it evokes images of direction.

There is humility in Stewardship, it evokes images of service.

Service is central to the idea of stewardship.
Stewardship is a willingness to work on ourselves first, to stay in intimate contact with those around us, to own our doubts and limitations, and make them part of our dialogue with others.

Our humanity is defined more by our vulnerability than our strengths.
That's what I consider true generosity.

You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.

Simone De Beauvoir
"Thou shall not covet" is economic policy. When you get into a safe place you will become greedy.

Your stuff will make you forget that it is all a gift!

Walter Brueggemann
HONOUR what has been given,
use POWER with a sense of GRACE
and pursue PURPOSES
greater than the
interest of SELF
The cause must catch the eye, warm the heart, and stir the mind.

If we merely recite the marvelous ways that God has chosen to use us, as His hands and feet in the world with due respect, then proclaiming His good works, is anything but conceit.
Stewardship maxims

Teaching must be credible and accurate!

Avoid

- Clever slogans - people cringe.
- Over use of proof texts - people are smart.
- Selfish motivations - God cannot be bribed.
- Clever formulae - its people who count
- Threats - to cut services
- Emotional pressure - its hard to sustain.
- Unethical tactics - they backfire.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that people are cynical about stewardship.
The empirical evidence however, shows that they appreciate serious instruction and will participate if asked.
Accountability as Covenant

• Statement of personal commitment:
  • toward the organisation and those served
  • for my recognised radius of influence
  • for my unique contribution made individually and in collaboration with others

If I am not for myself, Who am I for?
If I am only for myself, Who am I for?
Donor giving as an infinite loop

Either the donor identifies the issue or the organisation identifies the donor

Organisation further engages The Donor-investor

Evaluation ongoing

Investment made

Relationship grows

Investment renewed

Stewardship leaders keep the loop dynamic
"No man can tell if he is rich or poor by turning to his ledger. It is the heart that makes a man rich. He is rich according to what he is, not according to what he has."

Henry Ward Beecher
"Hell begins on the day when God grants us a clear vision of all that we might have achieved, of all the gifts which we have wasted, of all that we might have done which we did not do."

_ Gian-Carlo Menotti_