

Fred's Blog

May, 2008

Planning for The Annual Commitment Process

Among the matters to be set in place during the month of May, if it has not already happened, is the congregation's plan for its [annual financial commitment process](#).

The most important elements to effectiveness of this process are broad consensus around the congregation's commitment to a missional agenda, a practice by the leadership of speaking regularly about money in non-anxious ways, a year-round emphasis on stewardship as a matter of discipleship and the careful selection of the stewardship ministry team or committee to include: a) people who themselves are strong financial supporters of the church's ministry and who understand this as a matter of proportional giving and spiritual growth and b) people who have been engaged in the programmatic rather than the financial aspects of the church's life.

The Third step that needs to take place is the development of a [Narrative Budget](#) that explains all the expenditures of the church's budget as undergirding the agreed-upon mission priorities of the congregation.

Fourthly, an approach should be selected that has not been repeated more than once in the last three years.

Finally, a time-line for implementation should be developed so that all are clear about who is doing what and all needed materials are available in a timely manner.

If all of these things are accomplished by the end of May, (or perhaps June or July at the latest), the committee will be able to approach the work in the Fall with energy and joy instead of anxiety and resentment.

Grace and Peace,
Fred Milligan