

Writing a Congregational Money Autobiography

Writing a congregational money autobiography is an important step in learning about your congregation's financial stewardship journey. This activity focuses on the attitudes, principles and practices related to the teaching and management of money in your congregation. Over the years there are probably several individuals who have played a key role in shaping this story. An autobiography can be approached in many ways. One approach is to make a timeline from the founding date until today and mark key activities, teachings or memories that shaped the congregation's relationship with money. A second approach is to invite a variety of people to answer the following questions and then create a narrative story based on their responses.

1. What does stewardship mean in your congregation? What does it look like?
How has this changed over the years?
2. What has your congregation taught you about what it means to be a steward?
3. What has your congregation taught you about financial giving: regular, special and planned?
4. What has been your most positive experience with money in the life of this congregation? What contributed to making this experience so positive?
5. What has been your most negative experience with money in the life of this congregation? What contributed to making this experience so negative?
6. How would you describe the financial status of your congregation?
How has this changed over the years?
7. How does your congregation's faith guide the ways that it uses money?
8. How does your congregation encourage people to have open and honest conversations about money and giving?
9. How does your congregation talk about money when it is not asking for it?
10. What activities or events in your congregation shape the current relationship between money and mission in your congregation?
11. Is your congregation generous? Why or why not? In what ways?
12. How does your congregation promote financial wellness in all areas, not just giving?

