Money, Ministry and Stewardship: Doing Better at All Three
Annotated Bibliography
Compiled by Stephen C. Gray

General Resources
A terrible title for a very practical book that reviews all aspects of church financial development. Barrett is a highly successful consultant whose counsel, if followed, will result in increased financial resources for local churches.

For churches that can afford him, Callahan has proved a very successful consultant. The principles provided in this book are valid and worth reading.

Foster addresses the materialism of American culture and suggests new ways for people to live out their faith in their spiritual as well as material disciplines.

Based on extensive research and interviews of funding patterns and problems in American churches, this readable volume explores strategies that work and strategies that don’t, and identifies the primary impediments to support. Chapter 4 on motivations for giving provides new and important insights.

One of the most important books for understanding the ancient impulse and modern resistance to giving. A superb biblical review provides ample information for the preacher of stewardship. Johnson articulates in theological terms the tension between being and having, resulting in our culture’s increasing faith in materialism.

The most complete history of the means and motivations for support of American Protestant churches leading to the current practice of “systematic giving,” known to many denominations by the term “stewardship.”
A book that invites people of faith to take money seriously, invest wisely, and give generously. A disciple of John Templeton, Moore urges investors to consider socially-responsible options for investing. Since publication, socially-responsible mutual funds have become a niche market with a very strong record of earnings.

This book explores the reality of money and possessions from a philosophical vantage point. In a culture that worships money, but pretends not to, Needleman encourages people to take money far more seriously.

Funded by the Lilly Endowment, this pivotal study documented the key impediment to increasing religious support. The study discovered that a large percentage of pastors and priests have no financial development training and don't want any, and that three-quarters of seminaries provide no training in this area and have no immediate intention of doing so.

A scholarly examination of how oikonomia, from which we get the words stewardship and economy, has been a recurring theme throughout church history and in Christian life.

Based on a three-year study of the money dynamics in local churches, this major study indicates that giving has declined sharply in both mainline and evangelical denominations, due in large part to the shifting of Americans from a survival mode to a pattern of mass consumption.

A sociological study of the tension between what people proclaim as their religious faith and the way it informs their decisions in their work life and as consumers. Wuthnow suggests a widespread secularization of economic issues in the United States and a tendency of self-identified religious persons to compartmentalize the religious and economic aspects of their lives.

In his sociological analysis of the current financial stress under which most denominations are being forced to operate, Wuthnow identifies lack of conviction on the part of churches and a lack of clergy leadership as the primary contributors to current funding problems.

**Unitarian Universalist Association Resources**

A 123-page comprehensive blueprint for conducting an every-member or a selected-member canvass.

An hour-long video designed for use with local church committees, this video focuses on the attitude with which giving is approached and encourages a healthy and straightforward method of asking.
United Church of Christ Resources

**Being Stewards.** Stewardship Council, UCC.

The major text for the annual canvass in the United Church of Christ, this 143-page book covers the theological foundation for giving, how a congregation can articulate its mission, ways to build a budget, and different methods of asking for support.


Every member was once a new member. A curriculum which seeks to introduce new members to the biblical principles of giving: why members give, the range of how much they give, and what giving does for the giver.

Hargus, Clark. **Stewardship in the Small Membership Congregation.** Stewardship Council, UCC.

In this 31-page booklet, a four-week method for conducting the annual canvass is outlined. This method was designed especially for churches with an average attendance of 75 or less.

Koch, Rowland. **Stewardship for Membership and Confirmation Classes.** Stewardship Council, UCC.

This booklet explores methods for teaching new members and youth about support of the local church. Koch was pastor of the highest-giving church per capita in the UCC.

**Local Church Committee for Stewardship and Mission: Organization and Function.** Stewardship Council, UCC.

Who should be asked to be on the annual canvass committee and what should that committee’s plan of action be is the topic of this booklet.

Miller, Earl. **Consecrating Stewards.** Stewardship Council, UCC.

To be done before a church develops a budget, and focusing on the giver’s need to give rather than the church’s need to receive, this 40-page manual provides a step-by-step guide that has proved to be very successful in many local churches.

**Two Financial Enlistment Methods for the Local Church.** Stewardship Council, UCC.

This booklet provides a step-by-step guide for the Direct Mail Method and the Telephone Approach.

Werheim, Carol. **Children & Money: A Guide for Parents.** Stewardship Council, UCC.

This booklet explores how children understand money and giving based on age, and suggests strategies and a biblical foundation for teaching children about giving.


A 48-page booklet which can be used with new members, youth, and couples preparing for marriage. Designed as an actual workbook to encourage financial and estate planning, it is currently under revision and will be available for purchase shortly.

All United Church of Christ resources can be ordered from:

United Church of Christ Resources, Inc.
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