

Sample Church Pledge Letters

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AMAYA SINGLETON

Our Membership Vows in The United Methodist Church

B&H Books

In his practical and easy-to-follow book Glenn Borreson offers a plan for increasing giving in a congregation through personalized stewardship letters. His example, timeline, and step-by-step procedures will provide an excellent resource for any pastor who wants to help his or her congregation grow in Christian stewardship. Borreson's suggestions not only help to increase giving, they also do it in a non-threatening way. I recommend his program enthusiastically. William Powell Tuck Former Professor, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Every pastor carries the responsibility of teaching people how to give and encouraging them in their giving.... Beyond mere fund-raising, Borreson's approach moves toward developing the grace of generous giving as one mark of Christian character. His field-tested stewardship program is adaptable in congregations large or small. David Nash Pastor, Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church Past President, Academy of Parish Clergy Point Pleasant, West Virginia A Step At A Time is a practical and thorough approach to stewardship that may be applied to a congregation desiring to grow solid stewards of God's gifts. This is a gift to stewardship teams in congregations that will keep on giving for years to come! Mark Petersen Pastor, St. Peter Lutheran Church Past President, Academy of Parish Clergy Sheboygan, Wisconsin Down-to-earth... practical... born of actual experience. Borreson takes a slice of his own highly effective ministry and shares it in a readily usable form. Melvin W. Henrichs Pastor, Salem United Methodist Church Waukesha, Wisconsin Here is a step-by-step stewardship program that is well thought out, easy to implement, based on sound theological principles, and has been proven effective. While Pastor Borreson is Lutheran, any Roman Catholic congregation could implement it successfully. Msgr. John B. Dewane Vicar for Administration, Catholic Diocese of Green Bay Green Bay, Wisconsin Glenn L. Borreson is the administrative pastor of Holmen Lutheran Church in Holmen, Wisconsin. He has been widely published in such periodicals as Christian Ministry, Dialog, and Word and World, and is the author of A Case For Excellence (CSS). A graduate of Luther College (B.A.) and Luther Seminary (M.Div. and M.Th.), Borreson is a Fellow in the Academy of Parish Clergy and has served as its president.

Housing in Washington

Fortress Press
Discover two extraordinary romantic stories about the power of a life-changing love letter. Have you ever gotten a letter that changed your life completely? Sam's Letters to Jennifer is a novel about that kind of drama. In it, a woman is summoned back to the town where she grew up. And in the house where she spent her most magical years she finds a series of letters addressed to her. Each of those letters is a piece of a story that will upend completely the world she thought she knew - and throw her into a love more powerful than she ever imagined could be possible. Two extraordinary love stories are entwined here, full of hope and pain and emotions that never die down.

The Baptist

Le vie della Cristianità
Becoming a Blessed Church will help you discern God's purpose and the path God is calling your congregation to walk. This book will help you find Christ in your midst and become aware of the many ways the blessings of God's Spirit flow through your congregation. This second edition includes three new practical chapters that answer the questions the author is most frequently asked.

Journal of the ... Annual Convention, Diocese of Bethlehem Church Publishing, Inc.

Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work--drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, Dear Church offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. Dear Church rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone--leaders and laity alike--to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice. It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges

us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus.

Church Administration and Finance Manual

John Wiley & Sons

What If You Could Change the World without Changing Your Daily Routine? When you've been transformed by God's love, you can't help but want others to experience the same grace and freedom. But how do you share it without scaring them away or offending them? For most Christians, "evangelism" is an intimidating word that suggests handing out tracts to strangers or doing other awkward things. But what if there was a more organic, more authentic way to share your faith with your friends, neighbors, and coworkers? Dave and Jon Ferguson have found five simple, straightforward practices that will allow any believer to do just that. And by consistently living them out, you can affect not just individual lives but your entire neighborhood and community—one person at a time.

From Every Angle

Salem Books
At once a "travel guide" and a vision for the future, this series is good news for the Episcopal Church at a time of fast and furious demographic and social change. It analyzes the present plight of the church and sketches a positive way forward, sprouting from the seeds of change—those transformative practices already at work renewing the church. What church models can help point us toward transformation? What are the essential tools? What will give us strength, direction, and purpose to the journey? Each volume of the series will: Explain why a changed vision is essential Give robust theological and biblical foundations Offer a guide to best practices and positive trends in churches large and small Describe the necessary tools for change Imagine how transformation will look For most Episcopalians, stewardship is synonymous with pledge drives, budgets, and capital campaigns, but the Bible is clear that God wants more than our tithes and offerings. Looking to its scriptural roots in 1 Chronicles, Luke-Acts, and the letters of Paul, as well as St. Francis' "third way," Robertson offers a vision of holistic stewardship for the whole church, holistic because it can't be separated from evangelism, outreach, scripture study, and ministry to the newcomer. It does not involve strong-arm tactics, only a willingness to risk changing existing structures and ideas in order to enrich the faith community and strengthen connections to the neighboring world. Transforming Stewardship delivers both good and bad news about Episcopalians and stewardship. Robertson provides essential models and spiritual practices in order to transform the church's outmoded attitudes toward stewardship and wealth into a broader context of faith.

New Techniques for Church Fund Raising

Church Publishing, Inc.
The complete anthology of resources for year-round planning and execution of a successful stewardship campaign comes shrink-wrapped and already hole-punched -- all you need to do is insert it in a binder. It's a wide-ranging compendium that includes all of the following: -- Nineteen outstanding stewardship sermons from preachers of many denominations. -- Eleven lively, captivating children's object lessons examining stewardship through the concepts of Action, Direction, Earth, Home, Inheritance, Portion, Responsibility, Steward, Sacrifice, Treasure, and Willing. (The first letters form an anagram of stewardship.) -- Temple Talks, brief sketches that provide a lighthearted, non-threatening way to subtly remind congregations of the purpose of stewardship. -- Three insightful dramas that are perfect for getting stewardship callers off to an enthusiastic start before they make their contacts. -- A gold mine of quips, quotes, stories, and pithy sayings about stewardship that are great for use in newsletters, on bulletin boards, or as illustrations in sermons and speeches. -- Twelve monthly agendas with detailed plans that will help stewardship committees systematically develop new leadership and increase participation in and financial support for church programs. -- A detailed handbook for leading a successful stewardship campaign through advance planning and eager congregational support. Especially effective for smaller and medium-sized congregations, it's a must-have resource for every stewardship committee member. -- A how-to resource with several approaches for getting young children and teens started early in understanding stewardship and participating in the life of the parish.

Dear Church

CSS Publishing
This thorough commentary presents a coherent reading of 1 Corinthians, taking full account of its Old Testament and Jewish roots and demonstrating Paul's primary concern for the unity and purity of the church and the glory of God. Roy Ciampa and Brian Rosner's well-informed, careful exegesis touches on an astonishingly wide swath of important yet sensitive issues, reinforcing the letter's ongoing theological and pastoral significance.

Housing

Rowman & Littlefield
The letters to the seven churches found in the early chapters of the New Testament Book of Revelation are the subject of this critical Biblical study.

The Western Christian Advocate

Upper Room Books
Doing Good Well is a thinking man's guide to the nonprofit world. It is replete with nonprofit paradigms. It provides a different twist to what one might regard as straightforward notions such as mission, staff compensation, governance and corporate social responsibility. And it surprises and challenges even as it seeks to explain charity-specific issues such as charitableness, bridging the rich/poor divide, informed giving and social entrepreneurship.

QuickBooks for Churches and Other Religious

Organizations Little, Brown

Author, professor (Southeastern Seminary), and Fox op-ed columnist Bruce Riley Ashford writes a series of letters to a young college student who is struggling to make sense of how to be a Christian amid contemporary American politics.

The E-Giving Guide for Every Church

CSS Publishing
Considering how essential fundraising is to ministry, many church leaders remain terrified of asking for or talking about money. Fearless Church Fundraising removes the terror from stewardship, urging leaders to focus on deep spiritual conversion and a clear, compelling mission before they design the pledge cards. In this rich resource—part handbook, part workbook, part spiritual guidebook—former monk and popular consultant Charles LaFond combines road-tested strategies and sample campaign documents with a spiritual director's sensitivity. The result is an irresistible, user-friendly text that promises to transform your ministry's fundraising and its spiritual life.

Modern Church Finance

Inter-Varsity Press
The real-world guide to successfully funding your nonprofit program The Complete Guide to Fundraising Management is the comprehensive handbook for successful fundraising, with a practical focus that applies across the nonprofit sector. With a focus on planning, self-assessment, continual improvement, and high-payoff strategies, this book provides more than just ideas—it shows you the concrete, real-world actions that make it all happen, and gives you the tools you need to bring these concepts to life. This new fourth edition features the latest information about social media campaigning, internet fundraising, crowdfunding, and more. Timelines, checklists, and forms help you streamline management tasks to focus on effective development, and updated sample reports and budget information help you begin implementing these approaches quickly. The nonprofit world is becoming increasingly competitive in terms of funding, and fundraisers are being asked to perform miracles more than ever before. This book offers a time-tested framework for fundraising success, with step-by-step guidance through the entire process from prospect to program. Understand and apply the major principles and best practices of fundraising Manage information, resources, development, and volunteers Adopt new approaches to relationship-building and prospect identification Write grants and fundraising materials that make a rock-solid case for support There is never enough funding to go around. To survive and thrive, nonprofits must revitalize interest and generate more support. Gone are the days of door-knocking and bake sales; strategy is critical, and execution must be top-notch. The Complete Guide to Fundraising Management shows you the real-world strategies that get your programs funded.

The Christian Advocate

Epigram Books
A resource for both newcomers to the United Methodist Church and those who have been members for decades, Our Membership Vows is a wonderful reflection on the vows each member takes upon joining the church. Members make covenant to uphold the vows, and each one is discussed in this easy-to-read booklet. A great gift idea for churches to give to new members.

Doing Good Well

Church Publishing, Inc.
Laudato Si 'is Pope Francis' second encyclical which focuses on the theme of the environment. In fact, the Holy Father in his encyclical urges all men and women of good will, the rulers and all the powerful on earth to reflect deeply on the theme of the environment and the care of our planet. This is our common home, we must take care of it and love it - the Holy Father tells us - because its end is also ours.

The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia

Abingdon Press
A field-tested guide to the management and finance of church congregations, revised for a new generation. Clergy are generally equipped to preach and provide spiritual care. But when it comes to budgets, insurance, fire safety, and church management many find themselves at a loss. The Church Administration and Finance Manual is the classic guide to running a church, written to answer key questions for clergy and lay leaders. Not simply a theoretical

resource, the Manual provides suggestions for almost every aspect of parish administration: position descriptions, financial forms, materials for stewardship and Christian education, building use and safety issues, employee record keeping, and much more. This revised edition offers guidance on many new topics that are of vital importance to churches, including protecting children, information security, approaches to preventing and responding to violence, planned giving, social media, and hybrid work and worship. Whether clergy are just out of seminary or well-seasoned in parish life, the Manual is full of excellent guidelines, tools, and forms for improving the management of the parish.

The Assembly Herald Review and Herald Pub Assoc

The purpose of this book is to help churches raise more money for ministry and mission by better using electronic media. Although philanthropy in the US is growing, churches continue to receive a declining portion of that philanthropy. Part of the challenge is that America is becoming significantly less dependent on paper currency (cash and checks) yet the church continues to count on paper currency as their primary media for donations. There have

been warning signals for several years. Many churches face shrinking budgets and membership and are beginning to ask the right questions. The author's goal is to capture this teachable moment with a resource that will encourage pastors and church leaders to utilize tools already available to change the trajectory of their resourcing; because nothing is more important than what God has called them to do. The banking and electronic giving industries have not made it easy for churches to understand their services or fees. This book will take the confusion and fear away and open churches to new possibilities.

Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States

Issues for 1865- include directory.

Transforming Stewardship

Bookkeeping for churches can be quite different than for-profit businesses, and the other guides available cover either QuickBooks or church accounting, not both. Lisa London, *The Accountant Beside You*, walks you through QuickBooks for your

church from start to finish, always with examples, terminology, and understanding of what a busy church administrator needs to know in a clear, concise style. With her friendly easy-to-understand style and illustrative screenshots, Lisa guides new QuickBooks users every step of the way, while her tips for how to make QuickBooks work better for churches provides new insight and procedures for even the experienced bookkeeper. Not only does she step you through how to set up QuickBooks and utilize it more efficiently for your house of worship, but she also discusses everything you need to know to implement controls and procedures to ensure that your church's money is always protected. QuickBooks for Churches covers PC versions of QuickBooks from 2012 forward and even includes what's new in the 2014 version. Lisa offers sound accounting procedures for both large and small houses of worship, for bookkeepers with years of experience as well as those just starting out. Let *The Accountant Beside You* take one more worry off your crowded to-do list.

Laudato Si'