

## Six Essential P.I.E.C.E.S for a Fruitful Campaign!

### PRAYER

*“To set our hearts on the kingdom therefore means to make the life of the Spirit within and among us the center of all we think, say, or do.” (Making All Things New- Henri J.M. Nouwen)*

Before it is anything else, stewardship is a spiritual and relational thing. It is about a journey with God that builds on wanting to be where God is in ministry and mission. Stewardship exceeds the boundaries of what we give financially to the work of God. It is ultimately about the heart listening, discerning and identifying through prayer what it is God wants to do in and through us—all of us. Prayer should precede any kind of financial commitment.

Your consultant will work with you to develop meaningful resources and experiences that will enhance your faith community’s prayerfulness.

### INVOLVEMENT

*“If you wait until you can do everything for everybody, instead of something for somebody, you’ll end up not doing anything for anybody.” Malcom Bane*

You will want to cast a wide enough net to involve as many people as possible in this journey. While it may begin with leadership it must quickly disseminate through your entire faith community so that everyone is invited to participate. We want to reverse the 80/20 principal where 80% of the work of the church is done by 20% of the people. Careful and intentional involvement can reverse that!

Imagine 80% of your people becoming involved in a highly energized journey of faith? It’s entirely possible! Short term and well-defined tasks, coupled with exciting worship events and prayer experiences, can lift even the spectators of your church toward active involvement.

One very important principle to remember in this journey is that **involvement = ownership!**

Your consultant will work with you to build on this formula to insure your journey's success!

## **EDUCATION**

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela*

A fruitful journey begins with strong vision casting and the ability to educate people about your project. Some of your people are wired toward wanting to know the nuts and bolts about EVERYTHING. You'll need to be prepared answer their questions as thoroughly as possible.

In addition to the information sharing that will be part of this journey it would be especially helpful to teach solid Christian stewardship principles. This is the opportunity for your people to dialogue about the scriptural “why” behind giving, serving, and sharing.

Your consultant will work with you to develop contextually appropriate resources that will help educate your faith community.

## **COMMUNICATION**

*“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”*

*– George Bernard Shaw, Leadership Skills for Managers*

It has been said that people need to see or hear something several times before they actually get the message intended. Frequency and redundancy are the friends of effective communication.

Because most congregations are comprised of more than one generational group it is important that communicating the vision for your project be accomplished in several ways including print, video, web and social media formats. You'll need to intentionally think about the generations you are trying to reach when creating your communication strategies for this project.

Effective communication will help your pastor and leaders make a strong case for your ministry project and educate your people about what you are doing when, where and how. As mentioned before, some of your people are wired toward wanting to know the details about EVERYTHING. You'll need to be prepared to answer their questions as thoroughly as possible.

Your consultant will work with you to develop contextually appropriate communication resources.

## EXPECTATION

*“Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think is possible.” – Ronnie Oldham*

Entering into a well-crafted stewardship campaign process with a genuine sense of expectation is crucial. Expecting that God is already present and working in your church will move the work that you do from the merely mundane to something spectacular for the kingdom. As Christians shouldn't we expect God to be present to lead us, guide us and enable us to do the God-size things we have been called to do?

Paul wrote to the Christian Church in Corinth, *“Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 CEB.*

This is about praying to know what God wants for us and from us—individually and corporately—to fulfill God's will for the church.

## SUPPORT

*“It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” – Mother Teresa*

If the prayer, involvement, education and communication pieces are done effectively then asking people to financially support this effort will be much easier.

The “ask” you will make of your people needs to be inspiring and motivating free of guilt or manipulation. Trusting that the Holy Spirit has been working in the hearts of God’s people will give you confidence that individual responses will not have to be coerced from your congregation.

Everyone has something they can give. It’s ultimately not about the size of the gift but the love and commitment the gift represents. Emphasizing this from the beginning of your process is very important. It is also important to emphasize that giving to this particular project ought to be *above and beyond* what is currently being given for the ministries of the church.

Your consultant will share other ideas about helping people to maximize their giving.

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