

Conditions which constitute  
**OBSTACLES**

**To Effective Stewardship Education  
In The Congregation**

- 1a The priest has not made a clear decision about his/her own giving
- 1b The priest is conflicted about his/her role in leading the parish into more generous giving.
2. Vestry members have not made a clear commitment personally to proportionate giving and as a result give mixed signals to the parish.
3. Stewardship messages focus primarily on budget needs and church expenses.
4. There is little sense of an expanding mission vision to which parish leaders are committed which would require or justify increased contributions.
5. Parishioners are left in isolation to make their own decisions about giving without guidance and support from their fellow Christians.
6. Parishioners are sent out to ask for pledges from other parishioners without adequate understanding and skill for this task.
7. Stewardship development plans are haphazard and poorly thought out.
8. There is little improvement from year to year in a parish's ability to carry on effective stewardship education.

Conditions which facilitate  
**EFFECTIVE**

**Stewardship Education  
In The Congregation**

- 1a The priest is a tither or is committed to a plan of increased proportionate giving with tithing as a minimum goal.
- 1b The priest is willing to witness publicly to his/her own understanding and practice of financial Christian stewardship and to invite parishioners to re-examine their own
2. Vestry members are committed to proportionate giving as the pattern of their own financial Christian stewardship and give clear encouragement to their fellow parishioners to do the same.
3. Stewardship education focuses primarily on the decision of individual members to give a percentage of their income; budget considerations should be secondary.
4. The Rector and Vestry are formally committed to increasing the percentage of parish income devoted to mission outside of the parish, and boldly hold up these specific mission opportunities in front of the congregation.
5. Opportunities are provided annually for parishioners to talk through their decisions about giving with their fellow Christians.
6. Before members visit other members they are given the training necessary to approach this task with clarity and confidence.
7. A careful plan is developed to carry a stewardship **education** effort through to a successful conclusion.
8. Careful evaluation at the conclusion of the program enables a parish to build on successes and benefit from mistakes from year to year.