



# Cultivating A Spirit of Generosity

Foothills Presbytery

August 15, 2017

# Opening Prayer

*All: In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel Whom alone we worship and serve.*

# Opening Prayer (cont.)

*We trust in God alone Who loves us and enriches us with abundant gifts.*

*And so we will seek to move . . .*

*In attitude from scarcity to abundance*

*In lifestyle from consumption to renewal*

*In finance from debt to freedom*

# Opening Prayer (cont.)

*We worship God alone Who empowers us  
to celebrate the grace of the Lord Jesus  
Christ.*

*And so we will seek to move . . .*

*In liturgy from avoidance to celebration*

*In giving from funding to offering*

*In emphasis from annual to year-round*

# Opening Prayer (cont.)

*We serve God alone Who calls us to a life of thanksgiving to the Spirit, loving God, neighbor, and self.*

*And so we will seek to move . . .*

*In practice from maintenance to mission*

*In outreach from parochial to global*

*In relationships from domination to interdependence.*

# Opening Prayer (cont.)

*In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying "Come, Lord Jesus!"*  
**AMEN.**

*(from the Hudson River Presbytery Stewardship Team)*

# What is Stewardship?

- “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21
- Stewardship is the church’s theological antidote to the chief idols of our age; consumerism, materialism, and acquisition.
- Stewardship is about the joyous discipline of thanking God with the way we live our lives and spend and share our money.

# What is Stewardship?

- Gratitude
- Spiritual Growth
- About making choices
- Caring for all that God has given us
- Time, Talent, Treasure, AND Influence
- Disciple making



# Stewardship is not:

- A once-a-year event
- About money
- Fundraising (but we have things to learn from effective fundraising principles)
- Meeting a budget
- About us (as individuals or as a church)

# Spiritual Components

- Generosity Team
- Leaders
- Pastor



# Generosity Team

- Chartered by session
- Member from each program/mission committee of the church
- Coordinates ALL story telling, asks, and thanks
- Works year-round

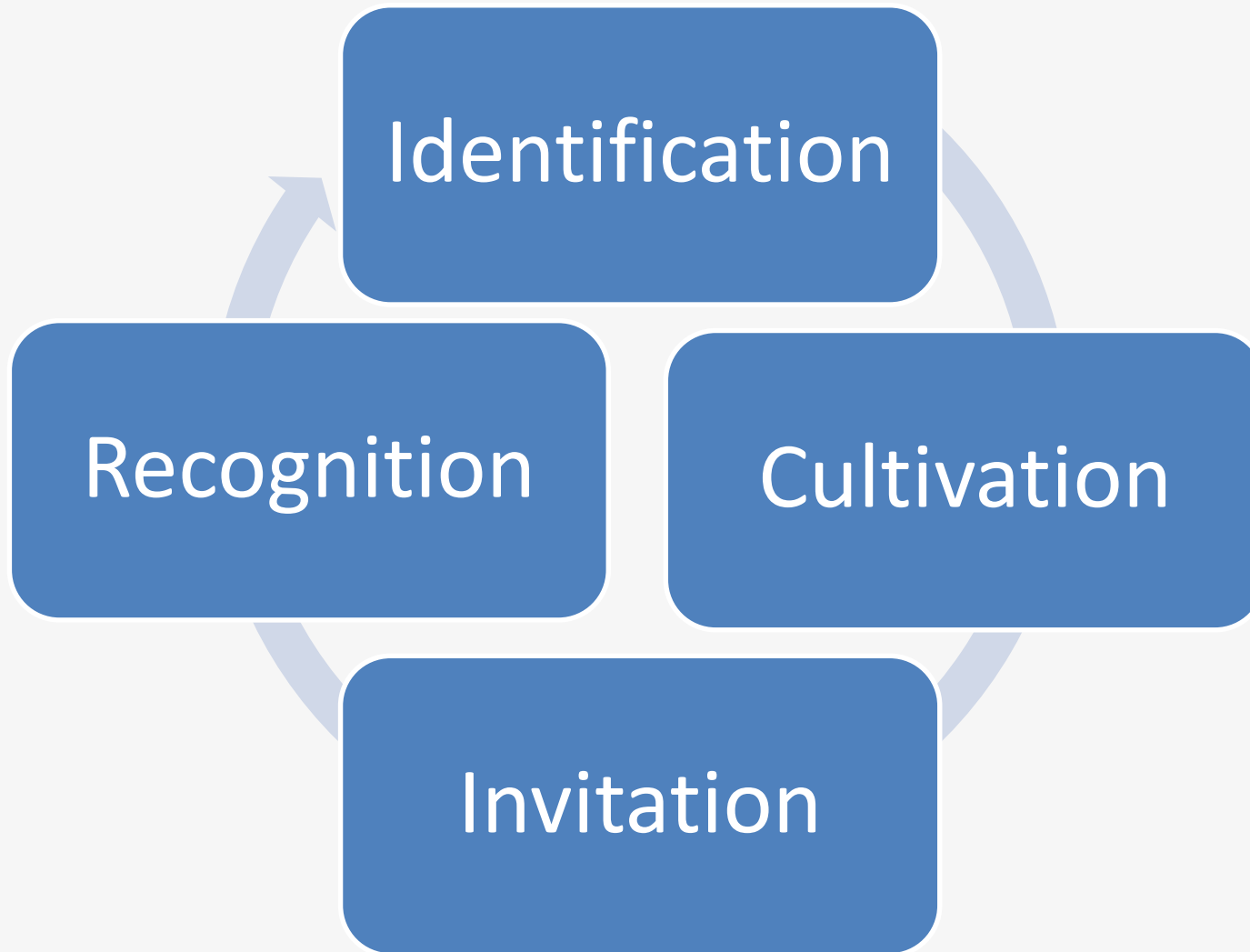
# Leaders

- Sanctions/charters the Generosity team
- Share their stories
- Supports the Generosity team
- Be pledgers/tithers
- Be leaders in stewardship (pledge first)

# Pastor

- Talk about their own stewardship
- Preach about generosity regularly (once a month)
- Be the story teller; excite/energize people about all that the church is doing
- Invite/ask

# How Do We Do This?



# Identification- WHO hears our story?

- Insiders
- Casual Members
- Visitors
- Users







## Cultivation- WHAT is our Story?

- What is it you do well? In your church, in your community, in the world?
- How are you participating with Christ?



# Cultivation

## WHY do we tell our story?

- Connect to the strategic plan
- Raise awareness about the church
  - Remember that not everyone knows everything about your church
- Celebrate your church
- Create energy about the church
- Invite people to engage in the church

# Cultivation

## HOW do we tell our story?

- Preaching
- Minute for mission
- During/before offering
- Newsletter/E-Newsletter
- Brochures
- Town Hall Meetings
- Vision Sunday and 6 month checkup
- Dessert & Dialogue
- Sunday School
- Testimonials
- Video Testimonials
- Narrative Budget

# Keys to Success

- Be prayerful
- Celebrate your church
- Be visionary
- Communicate
- Involve many
- Fund ministry, not raise funds
- Be inviting, not threatening
- Challenge your congregation

# Resources

- “Offering Plate” Books by J. Clif Christopher
- “A Spirituality of Fundraising” by Henry Nouwen
- Presbyterian Foundation MRO
- [www.presbyterianfoundation.org](http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org)