

Generosity Committee

April 23, 2020 – Noon – Online

Attending: Phyllis Wiederhoeft (chair), Bob Beggs (Board Rep.) Tyler Gold, Rick Blum (staff)

The meeting started at noon with prayer.

Rick updated the group about the Mike Ward webinar on Monday, called “Stewardship in Uncertain Times” that he and Phyllis attended online. Rick said it was very good. Here was his takeaways.

- Giving tends to be good to start in crisis, then a gradual decline. Then our large group leaders tend to lead us out of it;
- Giving tends to stay strong to churches in recessions;
- When generosity happens, don’t keep it a secret;
- Tell the story of how you have seen God at work in the life of the congregation during the pandemic;
- If you get a PPP loan, don’t make it the first story people in the congregation hear about generosity;
- Might be a good time for a challenge gift for online giving (\$500 = \$50 for every person that signs up to give online?)
- Don’t tell people to give their stimulus check – tell the story of people who HAVE given their stimulus check;
- Protestants – top 10% give 73 % of your donations

That led Rick to say that he had been approached by a family who wanted to donate their stimulus check, and Rick asked whether we should tell their story. Everyone agreed it would be a good idea. Rick and Phyllis talked later about how to approach them (NOTE: the couple has agreed to be profiled. They’re writing up to 250 words for the May Messenger.)

Phyllis said the theme of Mike’s talk was Generosity begets Generosity. Tell the story. We don’t want guilt anyone into giving, but we want to give out the message.

Rick said a planned town hall meeting in June should also help get the message out.

Future Planning:

The topic then moved to planning for a fall campaign.

Committee Membership: The first discussion was on whether to beef up committee membership. The group agreed that we may need people as we get closer to a

campaign in the fall. However, approaching them now will be problematic, and may be unnecessary if circumstances force us to do a different campaign due to the pandemic.

Dennis Ahnen turned us down. Sarah Schaettle remains on the committee, but couldn't be with us today.

The group agreed you don't need people that stuff envelopes be on the committee.

Other names floated out for possible participation - Amy Haskins? Ann Barrett? Tim Hughes? Kay Simmons? Jenny Vlack? Jan Frei? The thought would be to look back at the Beyond campaign for possible volunteers.

Campaign Style: As of now, the plan would be to go with a traditional campaign style. The tentative theme: Count me in!

Check in With Top 30 givers: This was another of Mike's takeaways. The group agreed it was a good idea. We didn't have a plan on how to do so.

The meeting ended around 1:30 with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: either Tuesday, May 19 or Thursday May 21 at noon. Phyllis will check with Sarah Schaettle about availability and firm up a time.