

The Philippians Workshop
Stewardship Ministry, ONM



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The Philippians Workshop is based on Paul's words in Philippians 1. In that chapter, and throughout the whole book of Philippians, we see how all the leadership of the congregation is working together in the realm of stewardship: Paul, Timothy, deacons, overseers, and lay "partners in the Gospel" are all mentioned within just the first three verses!

Target audience: The workshop is designed to bring together pastors and congregational lay leaders. Each congregation will know best just what lay leaders should attend, but for many congregations the board of stewardship, treasurer, and church council are a good place to start. We especially delight in opening up the Scriptures for pastors and congregations who have struggled with stewardship in the past or who have been reluctant to take up an intentional stewardship focus for whatever reason.

Venue: We can serve group sizes of a circuit or two on up to a regional or district level gathering, providing that the local host congregation can accommodate the group.

Time Frame: Since one of the goals of the workshop is to bring together pastoral and lay leadership, an evening workshop that includes dinner is recommended and should include at least 2 hours of presentation time. This also makes it easier for Rev. Heath Curtis or Rev. Nathan Meador to arrange travel. A limited number of Saturday engagements throughout the year may be possible but we have found laity are more inclined to give up an evening rather than a Saturday.

Personnel: Either Pastor Curtis (Coordinator for Stewardship) and Pastor Meador (Asst. Coordinator) may conduct the workshop based on scheduling. Both of them have direct experience in large and small, metro and rural parishes.

Calendar: As with most things, it is easier to schedule at least a few months in advance - but if you have a nearer date in mind, just ask.

Cost: There is no charge for this service: we are happy to help. In some of our speaking engagements our hosts will insist on a small honorarium or picking up travel costs - but that is "above and beyond" generosity on their part as far as we are concerned. We love to get out and speak with God's people and this is by far the most enjoyable part of our work!

Here is a sample schedule of the workshop that we recommend, subject to local circumstances of course:

3pm: Pastors arrive, opening devotion

3:15pm Intro to stewardship theology and practice for Lutheran theologians

5:30pm Lay leaders arrive for dinner

7:00pm Presentation for Lay Leaders on theology and practice of stewardship in the parish

9:00pm Wrap up.