

GENEROSITY HEALTH

Your congregation's stewardship numbers tell a story. Knowing that story can help you plan next steps. This **Generosity Checkup** tool can help your congregation grow its joyful generosity.

What's our story?

What types of givers do we have?

Are we normal? How do we compare?

How can we nurture JOYOUS Generosity?

3 STEP CHECKUP



Conversations

We start with a conversation with the Pastor, Treasurer, church leaders and any interested lay people. We explain the process, timeline and anonymous congregational giving data/survey.



Data Analysis

Once the data is collected and the survey completed, we analyze the anonymous congregational data. We'll look at questions like: Do a minority of donors provide the majority of donations? Do giving patterns vary by age?



Presentation

A presentation is made on the results of the analysis, and the church is given the opportunity to ask questions. Next steps can include a generosity sermon or workshop, further coaching and introduction of generosity tools and resources.

What is a Generosity Health Checkup?

A Generosity Health Checkup helps congregations talk about money by looking at congregational giving and culture. As an important part of church health is to nurture communities of joyful generosity and to help congregations talk about money and giving. Understanding the theology of abundance is crucial in avoiding 'scarcity/fear' mode in church culture.

But talking about money in the church is scary!

Actually, a scared silence is worse. Gratitude and trust are foundational for giving. Celebrating God's generosity is encouraging, and there is always something to be thankful for.

Generosity Theology

Generosity is more than giving what is strictly required or expected for the church budget. The materials which accompany this generosity assessment teach why Christians are to give in grateful obedience to God's generous grace and that giving is a spiritual discipline, just like prayer.

Process

See the diagram for a sample overview of the process. It's customizable and flexible to meet the needs of any congregation. The Generosity Health Checkup can be repeated in a year using the original data as a baseline. (The most valuable comparison is when you can compare to where you were and see how your church has developed).

Sermon Option

Sandy can present a number of generous stewardship sermons with great enthusiasm and can gently present what the congregation needs to hear.

Next Steps & Coaching

Together we will plan out the next steps, based on their circumstances. On-going coaching is available and we can recommend resources as applicable including: **How to say thank-you, Narrative Budgeting, Asset Mapping, Planned Giving, Pre-authorized Giving, Mobile Giving, Online Giving, Whole-life Generosity, Financial Hope Small Group, Questions to ask when giving is in decline**, etc.

About the Creator of the Generosity Health Checkup Tool

Lori Guenther Reesor is an expert in understanding Christian giving, and how that giving is shifting. She combines her passion for fundraising as ministry with years of charity and church experience. Her DMin. research on giving included interviews with Christian donors in five provinces. Lori is working with The Free Methodist Church in Canada to customize this generosity health tool for our use. Find out more at www.lgreesor.com.

This Generosity Health Checkup is available through the Stewardship Ministry of The Free Methodist Church in Canada. Contact sandy.crozier@fmcic.ca for details.

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