

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – INVENTION OF A LIFE GIVING CHURCH

---

PRESENTATION TO THE PRESBYTERY OF TSHWANE  
by  
REV. NOTSHE  
9TH OCTOBER 2010

# AIMS OF THE PRESENTATION

---

The presentation aim at the following:

Introduce people to the UPCSA STEWARDSHIP program. Why stewardship?

Basic understanding of Stewardship principles.

Awareness and campaign for a renewed life giving church.

Mobilize people to be stewardship campaigners

# INTRODUCTION

---

What comes into our minds and understand when we think and/or talk about the following:

A CHURCH ?(e.g. UPCSA)

CONGREGATION?

CHURCH ASSOCIATION ?(e.g. IYZAs)

GOVERNANCE OF BOTH ?(e.g. Direction and control and what is the relationship between the above)

ACCOUNTABILITY? ( giving account of the responsibility conferred - by all members; all those entrusted with responsibilities including Association.) - where and how should they account.

# INTRODUCTION (Cont.)

---

Stewardship speaks to issues of responsibility, commitment and priority.

The faithful handling of God's resources like money is a sacred trust committed to every Congregation/Church and individual members. The Congregation/Church/ association treasury (store – house, repository of all resources) is the Lord's treasury.

The money placed therein belongs to God. It must be handled in the fear of God and for the advancement of His cause.

Managing the Church's finances with integrity is an important part of Church's stewardship.

Integrity and openness are essential in Church finances – A biblical guide to Stewardship by Rev R.Z. Notshe

# Structure of the Church

---

## Structures

**ASSEMBLY**

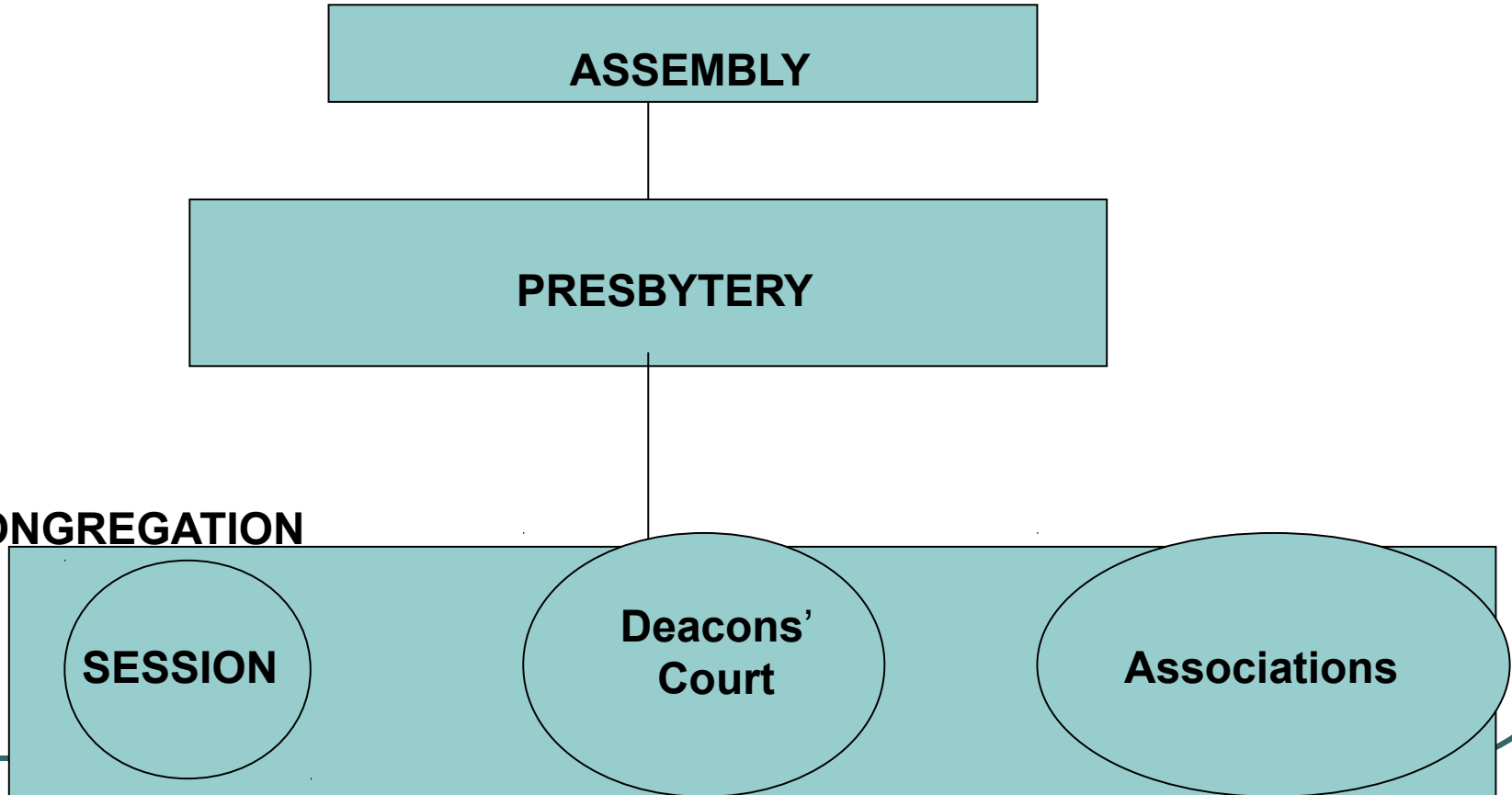
**PRESBYTERY**

**CONGREGATION**

**SESSION**

**Deacons'  
Court**

**Associations**



# Church structure

---

The church (e.g. UPCSA) fails or succeeds at  
Congregational level

Our congregations depends almost exclusively on their  
leadership

The greatest single factor in the success or failure of the  
ministry of stewardship in the life of a Church/Congregation  
is leadership.

Plans or programs of Stewardship are very important  
yet it must be recognized that most effective plans or  
programs placed in the hands of ineffective leadership  
will likely achieve meager results.

# ***Mission Priorities of the UPCSA***

- ***Evangelism***
- ***Stewardship***
- ***HIV/AIDS***

# STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN VISION

---

Stewardship is a key dimension of the programme of renewal of the UPCSA community through its mission priorities.

In this manner the goal of the Stewardship programme at the level of the denomination is to contribute to renewal and the establishment of a **giving**, sharing, **caring**, just, **reconciling** and uniting community of the UPCSA in which all resources are managed equitably to the glory of God and in celebration of our diversity.

# ***Aims of the Stewardship Program***

---

To develop a deeper 'one to one' relationship with our God

To be open to change in our understanding of Church – to experience being part of the 'body of Christ'

To grasp a 'vision' for what God requires of us and our congregation/church community.

Look at our role in the Church community

Honour God in establishing a firm economic basis to enable His Church to effectively function.

To proclaim the Kingdom of God in every possible way we can, in every area of life.

# Stewardship definition

---

- Stewardship, from the Greek word “oikonomia”, means managing another’s property or affairs.
- Christian stewardship means using the gifts that God has given each one of us to fulfill His purpose, to care for each other and for all of His creation with love and respect.
- To help prepare one another for God.
- It is the one way that the support of the Church is viewed as a matter of *personal commitment*.

## **Definition *cont....***

---

It is the way of maintaining our Church with Christian care, an active understanding of our Church's needs, and *by committing an honest portion of our time, our skills and our money for the work and support of the Church.*

It is a fair way to give because it enables each of us to give *according to how God has blessed us.*

# The meaning and motive of stewardship

---

It is an integral part of Christian teaching that has been neglected for far too long.

It has been practiced as far as giving money is concerned.

However, money is by no means its only or indeed its main concern

The motive of stewardship is that we do not give of our resources simply because the Church is in need, but in glad **response** to God's amazing gifts to us (e.g. the gift of life).

It is a Christian responsibility over the whole area of life.

# Stewardship in giving

---

*Christianity is a religion of giving. God so loved... (John 3:16)*

Giving is at the heart of our faith therefore people should never forget how to give.

Giving not only our time, our talents and our treasure, but life itself **first**. (I am prepared to die for UPCS)

Christian giving should not depend on what is *left over* after we have spent to satisfy every whim and fancy.

How we use money should be a matter of careful thought and planning; neither spending nor giving should be haphazard.

*It is essential therefore that Christians should know **how** and **why** to give?*

## WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

---

The bible teaches it – it is a response to the love of GOD

Giving enables me to live out my faith

When I give I can relate to the gift of Jesus given for me.

*When my gift is joined by your gift, we can do so much in the name of Jesus – much more than just one isolated gift.*

When I give to the best of my ability I honor God, and in return he gives me the gift of generosity! Being able to give joyously in God's righteousness is a wonderful feeling.

## How much should I give?

---

It's between you and God to decide what is the right amount for you.

a) ***Give with a Total Commitment*** — As St. Paul said, “God loves a cheerful giver.”

He loves people who understand that everything they have-- everything we are--comes from Him.

As stewards let us give in thanksgiving and experience the joy of giving.

The more you trust in God, the more generous you become. God will provide you with the resources you truly need through His blessings.

# How much should I ...

---

b) **Give sacrificially** — true Christian giving means giving up something else in order to give to the Lord.

It means giving up spending on things and activities that may distract us from the Lord. It does not mean causing financial hardship--just as fasting from food should not be done at the expense of one's health, but to help us grow spiritually.

c) **Give proportionately** – it teaches us what is really important in life. It makes it clear that personal comfort, material success, progress – **important** as they may be – are not the **vital** things in life

God first that is the true priority. Put Him first.

We must make a *commitment of our lives* to him by giving ourselves first then our things; not the other way round

# How much should I ...

---

Give from what you have, not from what you haven't (1 Corinthians 8: 12)

In your heart you will know if you are giving generously  
Do you **WANT** to give? Or do you give because you **HAVE** to?

Are you concerned for building up the kingdom of God or the kingdom of man?

Give more than you can spare – you will know you are giving enough when you have to make a choice that will impact in you lifestyle.

***Giving to GOD in NOT GIVING LEFTOVERS***

# Stewardship involves

---

- Thinking about our current giving
- Being prepared to change – renewal that is the establishment of a giving, sharing, caring, just, reconciling and uniting community of the UPCSA in which all resources *are managed equitably to the glory of God and in celebration of our diversity.*
- Opening our heart to Jesus as his disciples
- Making our commitment in faith to him
- Being prepared to practice our faith through regular, systematic and sacrificial giving
- Responding as a community and seeing the vision that lies before us as God's chosen people.

## What does this mean

---

It means being aware of our surroundings and being prepared to change.

Are you holding back any areas of your life from God's control?

For an example how do we live consciously as Presbyterians when for the past three years only 20% of all congregations of our entire denomination pay assessments as revealed by the finance committee of our denomination during the General Assembly held in Vereeniging in September 2010.

## Cont...

---

To me this is very serious and I would like to urge all the Congregations of this Presbytery to deliberate on this and come up with clear proposals.

Stewardship calls for the renewal of our commitment as members of the UPCSA to the cause of our denomination and the entire society.

This calls for our commitment to our congregational wellbeing

# Way forward

---

There is no denomination / organization that can survive without a sense of stewardship.

Without a sense of stewardship our denomination / Congregations will collapse.

To pursue this I am proposing that we all commit in being champions of stewardship in our respective Congregations and Associations.

The Stewardship Committee of the General Assembly commits to provide support to initiatives of stewardship in every corner of our denomination.

# Conclusion

---

There are three basic cords/principles of stewardship, the (**TRIPPLE R**) that can sum up what we have tried to do in this presentation

## **Responsibility**

Unless we take full responsibility and act responsible as leaders stewardship programs in our church will produce meager results.

## **Response**

God acts – we react. The initiative is always with God/ and we are made for response to God

Stewardship has got something to do with sharing with others what has been entrusted to us, **responding** to the God who never ceases to give.

It is how a Christian respond to his/her Creator by using his/her **time** and **talents** as well as **money**.

## **Resources**

Our Church has plentiful resources the trick is how we mobilize those resources.

# Cont...

---

Always remember that

You can't move people into action unless you first move them with emotion.

Effective leaders know that you first have to touch people's hearts before you ask them for a hand.

***"The heart comes before the head."***