

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT TIMELINE
from Hudson River Presbytery stewardship resources
<http://www.hudrivpres.org>

January

- Session recruits/appoints a Stewardship Task Force/Team
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter

February

- Stewardship Task Force/Team sets date for Commitment Campaign and begins to explore content/scope of Campaign
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter

March

- Stewardship Task Force/Team begins to finalize plans for Commitment Campaign; asks Committees, Commissions, Task Forces to begin thinking about next year's mission plans with report back in June
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter
- Highlight One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

April

- Receive One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter

May

- Highlight and receive Pentecost Offering
- Secure outside preacher for Commitment Sunday
- Begin planning for catered Celebration Meals on Commitment Sunday
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter

June

- Receive next year's mission plans from Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and begin reflection on the Challenge Giving Goal and needed percentage increase
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter

July/August

- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter
- Begin recruiting Stewardship Callers to invite church members to attend Commitment Sunday

September

- Session adopts Challenge Giving Goal and needed percentage increase
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter
- Complete recruitment of Stewardship Callers for Commitment Sunday
- Highlight Peacemaking Offering

October

- Receive Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minutes for Mission: members tell their personal giving story
- Stewardship/Mission article in newsletter
- Ask leadership of the church (pastor, session, deacons) to agree to make a proportional/percentage giving commitment to the church (doesn't matter what the proportion/percentage is as long as it is a proportion/percentage).

Four Weeks Before Commitment Sunday

- Letter from Session announcing Commitment Sunday with invitation to attend Worship and Celebration Meal, including Challenge Giving Goal and the ministry/mission that will be empowered by increased giving

Three Weeks Before Commitment Sunday

- Letter from Pastor(s) regarding Commitment Sunday and Celebration Meal, including Challenge Giving Goal and the ministry/mission that will be empowered by increased giving.

Two Weeks Before Commitment Sunday

- Letter from Stewardship Team/Task Force regarding Commitment Sunday and Celebration Meal, including the Challenge Giving Goal and the ministry/mission that will be empowered by increased giving.

One Week Before Commitment Sunday

- Guest Preacher in Worship
- Stewardship Callers make personal contact with all members of the church inviting them to be in Worship on Commitment Sunday with their Commitment (Estimate of Giving) Cards.
- Letter from Pastor and Stewardship Task Force/Team chair regarding Commitment Sunday and Celebration Meal, including the Challenge Giving Goal and what increased giving will empower the church to do, and Commitment Card to be returned on Commitment Sunday or before. In this letter announce to the congregation the leadership (pastor, session, deacons) have made a proportional/percentage commitment to the church and what the dollar amount of that commitment is.
- Send different letters to different people---make specific requests
 - Members who give nothing---ask to consider making a commitment of \$10/\$20 per week
 - Members who give but don't make a commitment---ask to commit half of usual gifts, but give all of it.
 - Members who make a commitment and give regularly---thank them and ask for a percent increase of gift or income.
 - Most generous members---thank them personally and ask for a percentage increase of gift or income

Commitment Sunday

- Commitments made during Worship or sent to Church prior to Worship if unable to attend
- Celebration Meal (catered) following Worships

November

- Contact those who have not made Commitment either by letter, e-mail or in person
- Regular report on Commitment Campaign to congregation (in Worship Bulletin, Newsletter, Graphic display).
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter

December

- Highlight and receive Christmas Joy Offering
- Contact those who have not made Commitment either by letter, e-mail or in person
- Regular report on Commitment Campaign to congregation (in Worship Bulletin, Newsletter, Graphic Display).
- Stewardship Sermon
- Minute for Mission
- Stewardship/Mission article in Newsletter