

Stewardship Director - 2022

Submitted by: Suzanne Cole

As you look at the goals you had planned for 2022, what were you able to accomplish? Please be as specific as possible.

The goals for 2022 were:

- Follow through on the pledges to the SEAC project (i.e. confirming that pledged amounts are fulfilled, writing thank-you notes, etc.)
- Implementing a stewardship program for the 2023 budget

The SEAC campaign is nearly complete. As of this writing we have received \$547,469 in donations, which exceeds the pledged amount by \$15,270. There are still 7 pledges remaining to be fulfilled. The deadline for the campaign is March 31, 2023. All donors have been thanked for their pledges.

This year's annual stewardship program was held in October and November 2022. The theme was "A Future with Hope." Three stewardship speakers—Paula Gross, John Upton and Barbara Gurley—offered reflections on the following questions:

1. Imagine you're at lunch with a friend who has never been to Old First. They ask you why you to church there. What do you say?
2. What is one thing you'd like Old First to commit to in the future (leaving aside the issue of housing for the homeless, since that is a mission that we are already pursuing)?

The campaign resulted in 51 pledges to the church's operating funds for 2023. This is a decrease of 7 pledges from 2022. It included 3 new pledgers.

How has your ministry's or leadership team's work and goals shifted throughout 2022 (due to COVID or other events)?

The stewardship campaign may have been somewhat negatively impacted by covid in the sense that hybrid worship made for a more difficult communication.

Where is your group or ministry area stuck? Do you need help in discerning who to ask to join your group or to get more involved?

What do you hope to accomplish in 2023?

As I pass the baton to the next Stewardship Director, it is my hope that there will be a new energy brought to our annual campaign. Or perhaps new ways of energizing the congregation around our commitments to the church all year long.

What has changed since returning to in-person/hybrid ministry? How does your group imagine bridging the in-person/hybrid gulf in 2023?

As stated above, communicating with the hybrid congregation is challenging. I suspect that this year's campaign was not "hybrid" enough.

What are the ways that the church can support your team in achieving your goals for the upcoming year?

Perhaps the new Stewardship Director could convene a small group to brainstorm about the campaign a couple of months before the fall, to garner new energy.