

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)

Please Respond to:

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Additional training at www.iGiveSDA.org under Certification

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Stewardship Certification

North American Division

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For Local Church Stewardship
Directors, Conference
Stewardship Directors,
and Pastors

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Why this Certification is Important

Stewardship is one of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is the Christian life in action. Teaching these universal principles will deepen the spiritual lives of members and help prepare them for heaven. God has called us to be His stewards. As leaders, we must learn, understand, and teach others the responsibilities God requires of His stewards.

Guidelines for this Certification

This brochure will give you a guide on what to do to complete your certification. A file will be maintained for each participant at the North American Division (NAD) Stewardship Ministries Office. It will be the responsibility of each person to report to the office the time and activity that is to be counted toward lab requirements and also to report on the DVDs used for study. When the requirements are completed, the individual will receive a certificate and will be listed as a stewardship resource person in the division.

This certification is required for NAD Stewardship Directors in the local conference, union, and division. Local church stewardship directors and members may be certified upon completing the certification requirements.

Requirements

Five to seven one-and-a-half hours of PowerPoint presentations will be created. *Faith & Finance* PowerPoints cannot be used or any other person's PowerPoint slides. Presentations or sermons will be published as a resource by NAD. The certified applicant becomes a voting member of the Stewardship Planning Committee upon the committee's approval and that of NAD Administration.

Recommended Reading List

1. *Counsels on Stewardship* by Ellen G. White
2. *Mammon* by John Harris
3. *Preaching and Stewardship* by Craig A. Satterlee
4. *Not Your Parents Offering Plate* by J. Clif Christopher
5. *The Sanctified Life* by Ellen G. White
6. *Steps To Christ* by Ellen G. White
7. *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn
8. *Managing God's Money* by Randy Alcorn
9. *Passing the Plate* by Christian Smith and Michael O. Emerson
10. *The Giving Myths* by Steve McSwain
11. *Stewards in the Kingdom* by R. Scott Rodin
12. *God and Your Stuff* by Wesley K. Willmer and Martyn Smith
13. *Sermons* by Charles H. Spurgeon
14. *Stewardship Study Bible* (NIV)
15. *The Sound Mind Investing Handbook* by Austin Pryor
16. *Tithing in the New Testament* by Dr. Ángel Rodríguez
17. *Tithing in the Writings of Ellen G. White* by Dr. Ángel Rodríguez
18. *A Biblical Theology of Material Possessions* by Gene Getz

Fundamental Belief 21

We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellowmen and by returning tithes and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. The steward rejoices in the blessings that come to others as a result of his faithfulness. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; Matt. 23:23; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Rom. 15:26, 27.)

Stewardship Responsibilities

The issues of time and money are critical in stewardship because they are the two most fluid dimension of life. The management of these two areas most quickly reflects and influences one's spiritual life. God created the Sabbath as the crowing act of creation week. He asked humanity to rest and worship Him before doing anything else, as a sign that humanity accepted Him as their Creator and Sovereign. God established the system of tithes and offerings for the same purpose. Through the tithe we worship God and acknowledge Him as our Lord. We recognize that all we are and have belongs to Him. God asks that the first portion of time and first portion of our material possessions be given to Him as signs that the believer accepts the covenant relationship with God. God then invites the individual to live the rest of his/her life in partnership with Him.

Thus, stewardship carries over into every area of the life of an individual or church. It provides the foundation and motivation for ministry and witness. Living in partnership with God shapes the priorities and focus. As believers grow in this partnership, the Holy Spirit guides them to provide the financial support for the Church as the body of Christ.