

Stewardship is Personal, Not Private

I want to share with you a personal decision I recently made. I changed my stewardship. My pledge of a tithe now comes to Latrobe Presbyterian Church, I'm glad to be a part of the ministry and mission here in this way. By giving to the local operating budget of the church without designations, I'm a part of all we do even when I cannot be everywhere all the time.

For me, a pledge is more for me, than the church. The church helps me keep this personal covenant I have made with God as an aid to my discipleship.

THE REVEREND 'RITES WHY I PLEDGE

When I disagree about the best way to serve God here, faithfully giving my pledge helps me as a spiritual discipline and reminds me that it is God's church, not mine. God and God's church is not for sale.

Pledging Eases Stress

I pledge because I am in leadership. If I don't trust what this church is doing, how can I expect others to trust me to be in leadership? I cannot imagine a person accepting leadership who does not pledge.

A pledge eases my stress. I don't have to tally up hurts and helps as if I am in the mist of a lawsuit settlement, or get out my discount coupons and watch the checkout display to see if I got what I paid for and credit for what I have done.

I don't worry about postage, tipping the pastor or staff, if I have cash on Sunday morning or what is a appropriate usage fee because I support the church by my pledge.

Thanks for helping me in my faith journey by accepting my pledge! — Christy

The House of God is NOT The House of Representatives

In our consumer oriented and politically charged culture, Presbyterians need reminded that church leaders work for God not for the members.

The Presbyterian Church's constitution states the session "lead [s] the congregation continually to discover what God is doing in the world, and to plan for change, renewal, and reformation under the word of God." (G-10.0102)

Other organizations

and some churches send "delegates", "messengers" or "representatives" to their meetings. We send *commissioners*. "Go with God and do God's work on our behalf and with our prayers." We do not instruct our commissioners how to vote nor do we govern by surveys and focus groups.

One of the principles of Presbyterian Governance states, "Presbyters are not simply to reflect the

will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ;" (G-40301d)

Presbyterians take God seriously and seek the work of the Holy Spirit and the will of Christ in their organizational life.

We may differ on "how" and "when" we carry out our ministry and mission but we are united on "who" we are seeking to please.

NO REPRESENTATIVES