



Living Grace and Generosity - Disciples Generous Response

Instructor: Lew Shepherdson

April 25-29, 2022

I. Course Description

This course will explore the meaning and importance of stewardship for disciples in the Community of Christ. Participants will explore stewardship as: 1) a whole-life expression, 2) an act of worship, 3) a discipline for spiritual growth. In addition participants will discuss the importance of the mission initiatives in the life of the church and how the message of mission shapes a disciple's generous response.

II. Required Texts

1. ***Giving to God*** by Mark Allen Powell (Eerdmans, 2006)
2. ***Choose Generosity: Discovering Whole-Life Stewardship*** (Community of Christ, 2019)
<https://www.heraldhouse.org/collections/books-generosity/products/choose-generosity>

III. Other Texts

3. ***Choose Generosity Study Guide*** (Herald Publishing House)
<https://www.heraldhouse.org/collections/digital-media-pdfs/products/choose-generosity-study-guide>
4. ***Let Gratitude Show You The Way*** (Herald Publishing House)
<https://www.heraldhouse.org/collections/digital-media-pdfs/products/let-gratitude-show-you-the-way-pdf-download>
5. ***Pathway to Abundant Generosity*** (Herald Publishing House)
<https://www.heraldhouse.org/products/pathway-to-abundant-generosity-pdf-download>
6. Latest edition of ***Sharing in Community of Christ***
<https://www.cofchrist.org/common/cms/resources/Documents/Sharing-in-Community-of-Christ-4thEd-WEB.pdf>
7. ***Mission and Tithing*** (Herald, Sept 2016)
<https://www.cofchrist.org/common/cms/resources/Documents/Mission-Tithing-Cramm-Herald-09-16.pdf>
8. *Stewardship Scriptures Handout (Bible, Doctrine and Covenants, Book of Mormon)*

IV. Learning Goals

1. To understand that stewardship is a whole-life concept.
2. To understand that generosity is a spiritual discipline.
3. To understand the importance of generosity as the foundation for mission funding.
4. To understand the relationship of “generosity,” “grace,” and “the mission of Christ.”

V. Course Requirements

Pre-course Preparation

1. All participants are to read Mark Powell’s *Giving to God* (Eerdmans, 2006), *Sharing in Community of Christ, Choose Generosity: Discovering Whole-Life Stewardship* prior to the start of the class sessions.
2. Many of the MEADS courses have a post-class assignment requirement. This course is different in that you will have pre-class assignment. All participants are expected to complete **either**

- a. the 21-day *Let Gratitude Show You The Way*

OR

- b. the 14-day *Pathway to Abundant Generosity*

journey prior to the beginning of the class sessions. You may select the starting and ending of the journey but need to establish a routine to complete the journey, including writing a short journal reflection each day.

At the conclusion of whichever journey you choose, you will write a one-page (single-spaced) reflection on what you discovered about generosity and yourself during your journey. Email your paper to Lew Shepherdson (lew.meads@shepherdson.ca) before 20 April 2022.

Course Participation

1. Participants will be expected to attend and participate in all sessions.
2. Participants will be expected to complete class assignments.

Final Evaluation

Participants will be evaluated on their completion of the pre-course preparation assignments and their course participation. Credit or no credit will be given on the basis of this evaluation.

VI. Class Schedule

25 April

Session 1 – Stewardship Through the Ages (Stewardship Scriptures-Handout)

26 April

Session 2 – Whole life stewardship and Generosity as a spiritual discipline

27 April

Session 3 – True Capacity and Good Sense Discussion

28 April

Session 4 – The Mission Initiatives

29 April

Session 5 – Tools and Resources for Generosity

VII. Course Instructor Contact Information

Lew Shepherdson

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