

Missing The Point

April 11, 2018

Our yearlong theme of stewardship continues into our next Presbytery Gathering on May 22, at Crossroads Presbyterian Church. This time, the focus will shift to the stewardship of our talents and leadership skills. At our March Gathering, you selected some excellent workshop topics that will help us all become more effective leaders.

Over the next few weeks, we hope to tease you with some of the topics and speakers coming to the May Gathering. This week, I'm excited to share that Stephen Keizer from the Presbyterian Foundation will join us on the topic of stewardship. Stephen is one of the Foundation's Ministry Relations Officers and will help us better understand stewardship as a culture of generosity that we, as leaders, help to foster. Stewardship is not a way to meet a budget or do fundraising. Stephen will explain the theology behind stewardship and the reasons why our members should be encouraged to give to the church as part of their faithful discipleship. He will offer practical tips as well to guide you in implementing a stewardship program.

This one-hour course is just one of many from which you may choose on May 22. But, let's not kid ourselves. If we really just want to prop up our individual learning on a topic, there are easier ways than driving to Mequon on a Tuesday evening. We could surf the internet or watch YouTube videos...unless, like me, you get distracted by cute cat videos.

But, here's the thing: if we really just want to be entertained or better informed as individuals, then we've missed the whole point of our education hour. Indeed, we've missed the whole point of why we focus on leadership development.

In the image of Christ, all of us are given spiritual gifts, experiences, and talents for building up the Kingdom. In keeping with true discipleship formation, we are called to empower all members to use their gifts as servant leaders. So, as the Presbytery, we offer opportunities to hone our skills and spiritual gifts through education and training. We don't engage in leadership development for our personal edification, but because we see those skills as essential to the work of the Church and the fulfillment of a calling to empower servant leaders.

Whether you are a commissioner or simply an interested member, we hope you will join us on May 22 for the course on stewardship, or another option (stay tuned!). We will all be strengthened as we build the body of Christ for the work ahead.