

United Methodist Foundation

2012 Faithful Steward Award



Purpose:

To recognize outstanding local congregations that demonstrate excellence in their ministry of faithful stewardship and to inspire all churches to grow and share examples of stewardship success stories with one another. Biblically based, creative and innovative methods of teaching year round stewardship is the ultimate objective designed to encourage growth through achievable and measurable goals.

Criteria:

- Western North Carolina Conference churches are invited to submit annually an application for the *UMF Faithful Steward Award*. Each congregation submitting an application will be evaluated on 20 goals, each with specific point values to be used as criteria for measuring stewardship achievements. Five specific goals out of the 20 will be required for consideration for the highest award.
- Based on a total of 260 achievable points for all goals, a minimum of 175 points must be earned for conference-wide recognition. The congregation with the most points in each of the 15 districts (even if not totaling 175 points required for conference-wide recognition) will be recognized on the district level. Therefore, all congregations are encouraged to apply.
- Congregations that achieve the 175 points will be recognized at the 2012 Annual Conference and later presented with a certificate of recognition.
- Each church has the opportunity to provide a 500-word or less narrative describing their overall stewardship efforts. This should include examples of how the church practices stewardship through education, environmental awareness, legacy giving through endowment development, advocacy for the poor, etc. These narratives will be signed by the pastor, lay leader and church council/board chair. Submitted narratives will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the United Methodist Foundation of WNC Stewardship Committee and a selection made for one church in the Western North Carolina Conference that exhibits Excellence in Stewardship above all others. The selected recipient will receive a beautiful engraved award at the 2012 Annual Conference during the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the United Methodist Foundation.

Application Instructions:

- Check off the items completed.
- **Provide details** on a separate page when requested, and for **Required** goals. Ex. dates, program titles and brief description.
- For consideration of this award, attach a narrative of 500 words or less. See **Criteria** above for details
- Completed applications must be received by **April 15, 2012**. The time frame for evaluation criteria is from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.
- Please forward all applications to **Lauralee Bailey** - Fax number - 980-422-0390 or mail directly to:

United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina
13816 Professional Center Drive, Suite 100
Huntersville, NC 28078
Attention: Lauralee Bailey

2012 UMF Faithful Steward Award

Application Form

The time frame for evaluation criteria is from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

Connectional Stewardship

- 1) Attend one Conference-wide or District-wide Stewardship Event (*Required*)
(Provide details including name, date and description of event) **(10 Points)**
- 2) Participate in any of the six church-wide Special Sunday offerings or conference-wide special offerings
(Provide Details) **(2 points each up to a maximum of 10 points)**
- 3) Conduct an event or initiative as advocacy for the poor or economically marginalized.
Ex. Room In The Inn (RITI), Appalachian Service Project (ASP), food pantry, soup kitchen, etc.
(15 Points)

Personal Stewardship

- 4) Offer small group personal stewardship study **(20 Points)**
- 5) Pastor engaged in a minimum of one small group personal stewardship study **(5 Points)**

Church Finance and Budgeting

- 6) Establish a Stewardship Coordinator and team/committee. Must be separate from the finance committee, may be a sub-committee (*Required*) **(10 Points)**
- 7) Offer a variety of weekly “Stewardship Moments” as a regular part of the worship service.
Ex. bulletins, offering prayer, children’s sermon, testimonials, drama, music, etc. **(25 Points)**
- 8) Establish a stewardship line-item in the church annual budget for funding and resourcing stewardship ministries. **(10 Points)**

Church Stewardship Support

- 9) Hold an Annual Stewardship Campaign **(20 Points)**
- 10) Offer on-going stewardship emphasis throughout the year including a challenge to tithe (*Required*)
(15 points)
- 11) Pastor presents a minimum of three stewardship-oriented sermons throughout the year (*Required*)
(15 Points)
- 12) Establish and/or promote a general endowment, even if unfunded **(20 Points)**
- 13) Offer a church-wide stewardship event or learning experience separate from an annual stewardship campaign (Provide details) **(10 Points)**
- 14) Offer one planned giving event **(10 Points)**

Stewardship Awareness/Education

- 15) Fulfill 100% apportionment obligation for both district and conference (*Required*) **(25 Points)**
- 16) Provide regular financial reporting to the church on a minimum of a quarterly basis **(5 Points)**
- 17) Establish a system to acknowledge and thank donors **(5 Points)**
- 18) Conduct an environmental stewardship assessment of church facility annually **(5 Points)**
- 19) Launch two new environmental initiatives annually. Ex. Recycle program **(15 Points)**
- 20) Offer a youth and/or children’s stewardship study. (Provide details)
_____ **(5 Points per study each up to 10 Points)**

Total points achieved _____

Church Name

District

Pastor’s Name

If attaching a 500-word narrative, please provide the following signatures:

Pastor

Lay Leader

Church Council/Board Chair

Date



Faithful Steward Award