

GENEROSITY CHECKUP

Your congregation's stewardship numbers tell a story. Knowing that story can help you plan next steps. This **Generosity Checkup** tool can help your congregation grow its joyful generosity.

What's our story?

What types of givers do we have?

How can we nurture JOYOUS Generosity?

Are we normal? How do we compare?

3 STEP CHECKUP



Conversations

We start with a conversation with the Pastor, Treasurer, church leaders and any interested lay people. We explain the process, timeline and anonymous congregational giving



Data Analysis

Once the data is collected and the survey completed, we analyze the anonymous congregational data. We'll look at questions like:
Do a minority of donors provide the majority of donations?
Do giving patterns vary by age?



Presentation

A presentation is made on the results of the analysis, and the church is given the opportunity to ask questions. Next steps can include a generosity sermon or workshop, further coaching and introduction of generosity tools and resources.

GENEROSITY CHECKUP

What is a Generosity Checkup?

A Generosity Checkup helps congregations talk about money by looking at congregational giving and culture. As an important part of church health is to nurture communities of joyful generosity and to help congregations talk about money and giving. Understanding the theology of abundance is crucial in avoiding 'scarcity/fear' mode in church culture.

But talking about money in the church is scary!

Actually, a scared silence is worse. Gratitude and trust are foundational for giving. Celebrating God's generosity is encouraging, and there is always something to be thankful for.

Generosity Theology

Generosity is more than giving what is strictly required or expected for the church budget. The materials which accompany this generosity assessment teach why Christians are to give in grateful obedience to God's generous grace and that giving is a spiritual disciple, just like prayer.

Process

See the diagram for a sample overview of the process. It's customizable and flexible to meet the needs of any congregation. The Generosity Checkup can be repeated in a year using the original data as a baseline. (The most valuable comparison is when you can compare to where you were and see how your church as developed).

Sermon Option

Sandy can present a number of generous stewardship sermons with great enthusiasm and can gently present what the congregation needs to hear.

Next Steps & Coaching

Together we will plan out the next steps, based on their circumstances. On-going coaching is available and we can recommend resources as applicable including: How to say thank-you, Narrative Budgeting, Asset Mapping, Planned Giving, Pre-authorized Giving, Mobile Giving, Online Giving, Whole-life Generosity, Financial Hope Small Group, Questions to ask when giving is in decline, etc.

About the Creator of the Generosity Checkup Tool

Lori Guenther Reesor is an expert in understanding Christian giving, and how that giving is shifting. She combines her passion for fundraising as ministry with years of charity and church experience. Her DMin. research on giving included interviews with Christian donors in five provinces. Lori is working with The Free Methodist Church in Canada to customize this generosity checkup tool for our use. Find out more at www.lgresor.com.

Congregational Generosity Survey

We would like to invite you to express your opinions in this Generosity Checkup Survey. The results of this survey will help us as a church look at congregational giving and culture so that we can better nurture a community of joyful generosity. Please take a couple minutes to answer the following questions.

ANONYMOUS CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY
(ENTER CHURCH NAME, CITY, PROV)
(ENTER MONTH/YEAR OF SURVEY)

List 3 things I am grateful for at our church:
(1 or 2 word answers):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Giving Data from the last complete financial year

of households: _____ # _____

of Direct Debit Givers: _____ # _____

List 3 ways we _____ # _____

(1 or 2 word answers):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Donor #	Total Giving	Amount	Age
1	\$	---	---
2	\$	---	---
3	\$	---	---
4	\$	---	---
5	\$	---	---
6	\$	---	---
7	\$	---	---
8	\$	---	---
9	\$	---	---
10	\$	---	---
11	\$	---	---
12	\$	---	---
13	\$	---	---
14	\$	---	---
15	\$	---	---
16	\$	---	---
17	\$	---	---
18	\$	---	---
19	\$	---	---

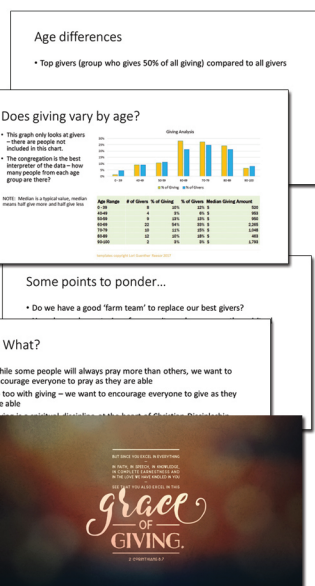
Instructions
Please enter last year's giving totals in the yellow area.

Donor Number - starting with 1 is easiest but this can be any unique number.

Total giving amount - how much did this person give last year? Last year's receipts are one way to do this.

Age - estimate the person's age. Just put down one age even if it's a married couple. Don't stress, just guess!

Congregational Survey and Anonymouse Giving Data



Sample Presentation Slides