

**Stewardship Commission**  
**Dwight M. Flaming, Chairperson**

A big thank you to the following Stewardship Commission members for their dedicated service to the Western District Conference: Dwight M. Flaming (chairperson), Matt Lehman Wiens (secretary), Pauline Buller (Staff Relations Committee liaison), Darlene Powers (Trustee Liaison) Dick Koontz and Marlan Ratzlaff. Beth Yoder, Business Manager, and Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister, provide invaluable staff representation and support to the commission.

We conducted meetings August 27, 2019; October 29, 2019; March 3, 2020; and May 19, 2020. Our focus through the year has been to give oversight and accounting for the WDC finances and property.

Since personnel costs are the biggest component of our budget, we recognize the importance of securing adequate funding through individual donations, grants, and other sources so that all ministries receive the necessary funding required.

We continue to look for opportunities to strengthen our work in fund development. We recognize that financial support must increase to support our current level of staffing. This past year, as a commission, we strived to determine how to encourage stewardship accountability in regards to fund raising and matching expenses with donation amounts within WDC finances. We encouraged WDC staff as they worked through the process of securing funding through the CARES Act-Payroll Protection Program loan/grant to supplement donations so personnel could be maintained during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will continue to seek ways to encourage donations from all demographics throughout the conference. It is vital that support comes from many different groups of people. We will encourage WDC staff to help generate enthusiasm and support for WDC programs which we hope will translate into increased giving.

We are blessed with a committed WDC staff which strives to operate programs and manage facilities and property in a responsible manner. We are thankful for the many financial gifts received throughout the year and in response to our annual fund drive request letters. We are grateful for those that accepted our challenge for all WDC Boards and Commissions to individually support WDC with personal financial gifts.

Next year's budget and Stewardship Commission business will include some of the following considerations:

- 1) Supporting and building upon a very loyal, faithful, and generous foundation of WDC member congregations,
- 2) Continue to seek opportunities to strengthen our fund development initiatives,
- 3) Ongoing emphasis on church plants and offer appropriate support,
- 4) Planning and adapting to changes in the WDC community membership,
- 5) Generosity initiatives in light of changing social and generational dynamics relating to conference financial support and participation,
- 6) Ownership, management, and maintenance of 2500 Place, N. Newton.

The commission is very grateful for the financial and spiritual support from our constituents. We look forward to meeting the challenges, and providing the Western District Conference with resources to help spread the good news of God working among us.