

Stewardship Minute  
Kerry Kelly Wade  
November 24, 2019, 11:15 Service

Good morning, I am Kerry Kelly Wade and a member of Immanuel for thirteen years.

In my Stewardship Minute, I want to talk with you about a fresh view of fundraising, stewardship and giving.

We often think of asking for money as an unpleasant, but necessary task. Henri Nouwen, a Catholic priest and theologian from the Netherlands had a very different view. He said, “Fundraising is as spiritual as giving a sermon. **Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in a way that invites others to share our vision and mission.**”<sup>1</sup>

I could not stand in this pulpit and ask you to join me in financially supporting our Immanuel Parish if I did not believe we are doing God’s work – endeavoring to worship God, learn more about our faith, love and care for one another, and respond to the needs of our wider community.

Many of us joined Immanuel and began giving of our time and talents to church activities and ministries.

These are valuable gifts for the present, but I believe financial giving is a spiritual step beyond volunteering. It entails investing in the future of Immanuel, proclaiming our belief in the sacred work of the church, not just for ourselves, but for the next generations. **Financial giving converts us from partakers to members.**

Ensuring the future of our shared vision and mission is what stewardship is all about. If you believe as I do in the need for a spiritual community now and in the future, where we worship God, proclaiming and showing his love for all, please join me in making a financial pledge to Immanuel.

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<sup>1</sup> Nouwen, Henri J.M., *The Spirituality of Fundraising*, published January 31, 2011, Upper Room Books