



2010 FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP SURVEY

SUMMARY

During January 2010, one hundred and nineteen (119) people participated in an on-line Finance and Stewardship Survey, a cooperative project of the New England Annual Conference Administrative Services and UMFNE's Faith & Money Ministry. Respondents included Pastors, Finance Committee Chairs, Stewardship Chairs and Treasurers. This summary is to inform and empower local church leadership to provide meaningful finance and stewardship ministries. For more information, please contact the Foundation at 1-800-595-4347 x106.

Finance Synopsis: Quickbooks, Excel and Quicken are used by a significant number of respondents and were described as Very Useful or Useful. Respondents indicated less satisfaction when using a manual system. A wide variety of other systems were identified and most respondents reported being Very Satisfied or Satisfied while finding their system Very Useful or Useful.

Stewardship Synopsis: The largest group of respondents created their own program with many reporting no change in giving and some reporting significant changes. New pledges reported in the 30-72 range may reflect total pledges or a first pledge campaign. Consecration Sunday received slightly higher satisfaction and similar changes in giving. Those who reported they did not do a campaign expressed lower satisfaction. A number of other programs identified resulted in different levels of satisfaction and varying changes in giving. Pony Express used by two respondents had both high satisfaction and large growth in giving and new pledges. Those numbers are not sufficient to draw any conclusions. Congregations appear open to trying different things and have different results, so it may be that good planning and leadership for programs leads to good results.

I. FINANCE SYSTEMS RESPONSES

This section of the survey asked three questions about the financial systems used by congregations. Respondents first identified the finance system they are currently using. Some churches selected more than one of the choices indicating they are using more than one system. Respondents then indicated how well the system meets their needs and their level of satisfaction. The summary below identifies the systems identified and the level of Usefulness and Satisfaction, as well as additional notes when provided.

Quickbooks - Used by 41 (34%)

Very Useful: 24 (59%) Useful: 17 (41%)

Very Satisfied: 16 (43%) Satisfied: 19 (51%) Neutral: 2 (6%)

Notes: We can put all our info together...should be real good
Excellent reporting and data management for treasurer
It does what we need well

It's very friendly and the reports are easy to read and comprehend

Easy to use after setup, integrates payroll, many are familiar with the program

Microsoft Excel - *Used by 33 (28%) (Also used in combination with other tools)*

Very Useful: 10 (31%) Useful: 14 (44%) Neutral: 8 (25%)

Very Satisfied: 4 (14%) Satisfied: 14 (50%) Neutral: 8 (29%) Dissatisfied: 2 (7%)

Quicken - *Used by 24 (19%)*

Very Useful: 13 (59%) Useful: 9 (41%)

Very Satisfied: 12 (63%) Satisfied: 6 (26%) Neutral: 2 (11%)

Notes: Ease of Use, Easily tailored to our specific needs, Inexpensive to maintain

Manual System - *Used by 21 (18%)*

Very Useful: 3 (14%) Useful: 7 (33%) Neutral: 9 (43%) Not Useful: 2 (10%)

Very Satisfied: 2 (10%) Satisfied: 5 (24%) Neutral: 5 (24%) Dissatisfied: 5 (24%)

Very Dissatisfied: 2 (10%)

Church Windows - *Used by 8 (some with Excel)*

Very Useful: 3 (38%) Useful: 4 (50%) Neutral: 1 (12%)

Very Satisfied: 2 (25%) Satisfied: 3 (38%) Neutral: 2 (25%)

Note: Would not recommend, too expensive

Logos - *Used by 3*

Respondents selected Very Useful and Useful, and selected Very Satisfied and Satisfied

Power Church - *Used by 2*

Respondents selected Very Useful and Useful, and selected Satisfied and Neutral

Microsoft Money - *Used by 2*

One respondent selected Useful and selected Neutral

The following systems were identified by one or two respondent and were identified as either Very Useful/Useful and as Very Satisfied/Satisfied.

- **ACS**
- **Membership Plus/6**
- **MoneyCounts and MPLUS by Brodurbund**
- **Peachtree**
- **Servant Keeper**
- **Church Helpmate**
- **Shepherds Staff- Other than payroll**
- **MYOB (mind your own business)**
- **Tithe**

Some respondents described using the following combinations of programs.

- Quicken/Excel (5 responses)
- Quickbooks/Excel
- Quicken/Quickbooks
- Quickbooks/Logos
- Excel/Manual (3 responses)
- Church Helpmate/Quicken/Excel

II. STEWARDSHIP RESPONSES SECTION

This section summarizes responses about congregational stewardship campaigns. The survey asked respondents to indicate the following information about the campaign they used.

- A. Their satisfaction level
- B. Any changes in giving commitments
- C. The number of new pledges

These responses are grouped together providing a summary for each campaign type.

Created Our Own Program - 54 (45%)

- A. Very Satisfied: 5 (11%) Satisfied: 21 (46%) Neutral: 15 (33%) Unsatisfied: 3 (6%)
Very Unsatisfied 2 (4%)
- B. Changes in Giving
No change: 43%
Increase Greater than 5 percent: 2%
Increase Greater than 10 percent: 17%
Increase Greater than 20 percent: 2%
Other Change Percentages Reported: 1%, 2%, 5%, 7%, 7%, 8%, 8%, 10%, 10%
- C. Total Number of new pledges reported: 579 Range: 0-74 Average: 17 Median: 6

Consecration Sunday (including variations) - 24 (20%)

- A. Very Satisfied: 4 (17%) Satisfied: 13 (54%) Neutral: 6 (25%)
- B. Changes in Giving
No change: 50%
Increase Greater 10 percent: 17%
Increase Greater than 20 percent: 8%
Other Change Percentages Reported: 9%, 1%
- C. Total Number of new pledges reported: 167 Range: 0-30 Average: 7

Did Not Do a Campaign - 17 (14%)

- A. Satisfied: 1 (6%) Neutral: 3 (18%) Very Dissatisfied: 1 (6%)
- B. No Change or No Response: 16 Increase Greater than 10 percent: 1
- C. New pledges totaled 18 reported by three respondents. Range: 0-10

Enough - Used by 5

- A. Very Satisfied: 1 (20%), Satisfied: 2 (40%) Neutral: 1 (20%) Dissatisfied: 1 (20%)
- B. No change – 1, 5% Increase – 1, Greater than 10 percent – 1, Greater than 20 percent - 1
- C. A total of 55 New pledges were reported by three respondents. (0, 0, 5, 20,30)

Quill - *Used by 4* Two selected Satisfied; Change in Giving reported was 5% and Total New Pledges was 4.

Pony Express - *Used by 2* Both selected Very Satisfied and Greater than 20% increase in pledges. Respondents reported 23 and 15 new pledges.

Living Stewardship - *Used by 2* Both selected Very Satisfied and Neutral, reported changes in giving as “small” and 4.9, and both reported 5 new pledges.

The following programs were identified by single respondents:

- **Money Matters:** Very Satisfied, Greater than 10% increase, 9 new pledges
- **Grow One Sunday:** Very Satisfied, Greater than 10% increase, 4 new pledges
- **Cycles of Discipleship:** Neutral, Greater than 10% increase, 10 new pledges
- **Step Up**
- **Special Delivery:** Satisfied, 5-6% increase, 2 new pledges
- **Give an extra cup of coffee:** Satisfied, Greater than 10% increase, 35 new pledges
- **Special Delivery**
- **Decided to work on faith-based budgeting, meeting needs as they arise, and informed the congregation of this by letter.** Neutral, No increase, 0 new pledges
- **Ken Williams year round program has gone well and annual campaign was below expectations** 10% decrease in annual campaign, 22 pledges increased, 9 decreased, 20 unchanged, and 2 new pledges
- **Mixture using "To the Castle" musical/play delivered by another church, member devotions and spaghetti dinner:** Satisfied, 9 new pledges
- **We have an on going stewardship campaign through the year:** Neutral, giving is sufficient, 0 new pledges

What stewardship resources would be most useful?

- Year Round Stewardship: 57 (59%)
- Biblical Stewardship: 32 (32%)
- Personal Finance/Debt Counseling Resources: 32 (32%)
- Annual Campaign Resources: 48 (50%)
- Investing and Assets Management Resources: 12 (12%)
- Planned Giving and Major Gifts Resources: 28 (29%)
- Endowment Development Resources: 19 (20%)

Comments on other useful resources

- A larger congregation
- The problem is falling membership. Individual giving increased, pledges fell
- Have special campaign/collections during the year when more money is needed
- For this church, unknown
- Evangelism techniques for our demographic
- Personal witness/sharing by members during worship; still learning
- Can you provide some ideas how to reach a blue collar/retiree congregation of limited financial resources, numbering no more than 50 people?

Answer: Yes, please contact the Foundation 1-800-595-4347 x106