



Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

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STEWARDSHIP STATEMENT

Stewardship is at the heart of the main work of the Church. As the Standing Committee of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, we acknowledge the importance of stewardship in the life of all Christians and call ourselves and others to responsible use of the abundant gifts God has given us.

1. We affirm the minimum standard of the tithe in personal giving and pledge ourselves individually to the tithe or to work toward the tithe in our personal giving.
2. We assert the importance of choosing leaders in the Church who are committed in Christian stewardship to tithing. We encourage that all candidates for the Standing Committee, in particular, affirm the minimum standard of the tithe in personal giving and pledge themselves individually to tithe or work toward the tithe in their personal giving.
3. We believe that giving to recipients outside the Diocese is also important. As the Standing Committee, we pledge to continue the Diocesan policy of giving each year beyond the Diocese (including giving to support the National Church), **an amount equal to at least 25% of the Diocese income from congregations for that year, as faithfully as possible.** As the Standing Committee we pledge to continue to fund Diocesan agencies which are our ministries beyond ourselves, including Beckwith Camp and Conference Center, Murray House, and Wilmer Hall.
4. This statement will be reviewed annually at the first regular meeting of the new Standing Committee.

Stewardship is giving freely of what we have received. Stewardship causes us to reflect on what has been given to us. In the end, stewardship is fun! It is our way of participating in the work of Christ in the world.

Adopted, Standing Committee, April 20, 1989

Reaffirmed, Standing Committee, January 23, 2004