“The earth is God’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”
(Psalms 24:1, An Inclusive Language Lectionary)

**Resources for Why We Give**

**UMC Website Resources**

**United Methodist Giving**
[www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org) - understanding denominational giving for church members, clergy, church staff, conference leaders and local church leaders

**The United Methodist Church Website**
[www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) - our denominational website with stories of how our giving makes a difference

**The Center For Christian Stewardship**
[www.gbod.org/stewardship](http://www.gbod.org/stewardship) - Local church resources, articles, books, bibliography, events, and planned giving

**The United Methodist Church Foundation**
[www.umcfoundation.org](http://www.umcfoundation.org) - manages the general church endowment funds, information on planned giving and stewardship

**North Georgia United Methodist Foundation**
[www.ngumf.org](http://www.ngumf.org) - helps local churches, agencies and individuals multiply their financial resources for mission and ministry

**United Methodist Communications**
[www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org) - media and print resources for giving

**North Georgia Conference Stewardship Committee**
[www.ngumc.org/stewardship](http://www.ngumc.org/stewardship) (Here you will find the 2009 Conference Budget Interpretation) - conference committee designed to resource local churches

**Other Website Resources**

**Generous Giving**
[www.generousgiving.org](http://www.generousgiving.org) - helps individual and churches create a culture of generosity. Includes events, information and support materials including books, videos, scriptures, statistic, solutions, and a research library

**Financial Peace University**
[www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com) - biblically based 13-week video training series for adults, and a companion series targeted at teenagers that has been offered in schools across the nation. Some topics covered in the series are cash flow planning, investing, saving, credit, retirement, and giving.

**Crown Financial Ministries**
[www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org) - an interdenominational ministry dedicated to equipping people around the world to learn, apply, and teach biblical financial principles

- excerpts from Why We Give, UM Communications

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For more information, contact the Office of Connectional Ministries at 678-533-1446.
10 Steps for Local Churches to Take in an Economic Downturn

Dr. Don Nations, DNA Coaching, 2008, abridged for flyer

1. **Offer** courses in budgeting and household finance like “Good Sense” or “Financial Peace University.”
2. **Host** a workshop on financing college and trade school. Work with your local high school, community college, technical institute, university.
3. **Sponsor** a workshop on writing a good resume. Work with your local chamber of commerce, business department of a community college or university, SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives).
4. **Increase** the number of no-cost and low-cost outreach events: Servant Evangelism, distributing flyers, asking for prayer requests, prayer walks.
5. **Look** for savings from energy conservation. Consider the following: insulate water heaters and all exposed pipes, turn off unneeded lights, change the thermostat by a degree or two, install ceiling fans, check the seals on doors and windows, replace incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs or LEDs, shift to a four day work week.

6. **Improve** the effectiveness of annual events. Spend intentional time with them, provide great hospitality, follow-up with the families on a monthly basis.
7. **Have** a representative in the Chamber of Commerce. This allows the church to remain in the loop, connect with companies that may be hiring and connect with people in the business community.
8. **Review** the investments of the church. Are your long-term accounts in long-term investments? Talk to your North Georgia Conference Foundation.
9. **Improve** those things about the church which do not cost money: hospitality, welcoming, guest follow-up, improved newsletter design, facility clean-up, trimming trees and hedges.
10. **Sponsor** community-wide job fairs, employment services, relevant workshops, interview skills classes. Publicize these throughout the community.

12 Specific Things Church Leaders Can Do Now to Increase Giving

by Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

1. **Immediately** make sure your personal giving is what it should be.
2. **Immediately** say “thank you” and find ways to do so regularly all year.
3. **Tell** people regularly what was accomplished through their giving.
4. **Immediately** do something concrete to assist those in economic distress.
5. **Ask** lay professionals to conduct workshops on budgeting and personal finances.
6. **Focus** on worship attendance since participation makes people more likely to give.
7. **Begin** teaching stewardship to parents to help them teach their children about giving.
8. **Promote** at least one new “first fruits” method of giving to encourage regular giving.
9. **Take** small steps toward having people discuss how they think about money and giving.
10. **Promote** alternative visions of the good life to counter media consumerism.
11. **Move** from a “pay the bills” church to a “live the vision” church.
12. **Stay** positive in everything related to money.

Generosity of spirit doesn’t flow from the amount of money you have. It flows from the amount of love you have received.