# Congregational stewardship roles

*For your pastor, stewardship advocate and stewardship team*

When your congregation participates in Everence Stewardship Partners, you have the opportunity to strengthen your stewardship ministry. One of the first steps is to create a team that focuses on the goal of enhancing your faith community's financial stewardship practices. The team includes your pastor, stewardship advocate and others invited to participate on the team.

In the Partners program, your stewardship team's goals are to:

- Discern needs of the congregation and how it might grow its understanding of stewardship as a spiritual practice.
- Meet the needs of attenders and encourage them on their stewardship journey by regularly offering them educational and practical resources.
- Develop an annual plan, by reflecting on what your congregation is currently doing in stewardship and making plans for the year ahead, using the Stewardship Ministry Assessment Tool.

Many stewardship teams also have broader responsibilities in congregations in addition to those within Everence Stewardship Partners. See **Stewardship ministry team**.

**Shaping your stewardship team**

Advocates and pastors are often the primary people from the congregation who participate in Everence Stewardship Partners. They may involve other leaders who shape stewardship ministry in your church, creating a team to meet the goals above. Here are some steps in forming a team:

- Begin with the stewardship advocate and pastor.
  - Consider financial needs and opportunities of attendees.
  - Consider financial needs of the congregation.
- Discuss whether to add others to your team.
  - Identify people with various gifts who could be on the team. Maybe those with gifts in finance, education, communication – or a trustee. Maybe an existing group can function as your stewardship team – or maybe the advocate and pastor are the team. The team composition is flexible. Each church will do it differently.
  - Invite others to join, as needed.
- Invite team members to give input into whether (and how) to use resources that Everence releases quarterly in the Partners newsletter.
- Meet once or twice a year to develop an annual plan, using the Stewardship Ministry Assessment Tool.

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**The special role of the stewardship advocate**

If you are your congregation's stewardship advocate, you have a unique role within the Partners program. As the stewardship advocate, you focus on:

- Networking with your pastor and stewardship team on stewardship ministry.
- Reviewing and sharing resources in the Everence quarterly newsletter and other sources, in coordination with your pastor.
- Completing and submitting quarterly reports.
- Submitting Sharing Fund grant applications.
- Completing and submitting the Stewardship ministry assessment to Everence, based on the input of your pastor and team.

How do you know if you can do this role? Consider these common characteristics and gifts of stewardship advocates: *

- Desire to help meet stewardship needs of the congregation.
- Interested in helping attenders integrate their faith with financial decisions.
- Ability to access, inform and engage church leadership.
- Are comfortable with reviewing online resources and filling out the report and assessment online.
- Willing to volunteer one or two hours per month over the next two or three years. Hours will vary month to month, depending on your stewardship activity.

**Everence supports your team**

You are not alone in coordinating your stewardship ministry! Your Everence stewardship consultant provides orientation and ongoing support to your church's pastor and advocate who participate in Everence Stewardship Partners.

**Active insurance agents, financial advisors/planners, Everence representatives, and their spouses are ineligible to serve as stewardship advocates.*

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