

## STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Adopted April 2009, amended April 2014

Women of the ELCA executive board members are volunteers dedicated to the mission and purpose of the organization. They are elected by women who are directly served by, and equally dedicated to, the churchwide organization. Executive board members have a crucial role to play in the development and sustainability of the churchwide organization, therefore the Women of the ELCA stewardship development policy encourages each executive board member to make the organization integral to her personal stewardship plan. Executive board members have financially supported and continue to support the organization through their congregational units and synodical organizations. The organization is grateful for this continued faithful support of members of the Women of the ELCA executive board, yet acknowledges the changing culture and context of stewardship within the churchwide organization. As a national representative of the organization, an executive board member's stewardship ought to go beyond her previous financial commitment.

This stewardship development policy in no way diminishes the many ways executive board members volunteer their time and talent to support the organization. This policy is not intended to exclude valuable women from executive board participation; instead it asks that each board member contribute what she considers to be personally significant. In addition to board approved organizational fundraising activities and appeals, executive board members are encouraged to commit to and engage in the following stewardship development goals:

- Committing to give freely and joyfully of spiritual gifts and personal time
- Giving an annual offering to the churchwide organization to their level of ability.
- Giving offerings in other settings, such as SWO conventions they attend as the churchwide president's representative.
- Using organizational resources, identity items and subscriptions to Women of the ELCA publications.
- Paying registration fees for triennial gatherings and any other geographical events sponsored by the churchwide organization.
- Establishing expectations that board members will identify, cultivate and thank donors. Supporting and attending fundraising opportunities such as Thankoffering services in their communities.
- Participating in stewardship development training and education.

- Ensuring that designations of monies for stewardship development are included in the fiscal budget as a strategy to ensure both short and long-term giving results.
- Achieving 100% participation by the executive board.

Board members are encouraged to continue their commitment to these stewardship development goals after the conclusion of their term on the executive board as the majority of these activities are appropriate for all persons concerned with the stewardship of Women of the ELCA.