

Template* for a Vestry or Bishop's Committee Stewardship Statement:

We the undersigned members of the [*vestry or bishop's committee*] of the [*Name of Church*] individually and corporately affirm the tithing of 10% as the minimum standard of our giving.

Each of us is either already tithing or has adopted a personal program which will bring us to this standard of giving in the next [*three years, or other agreed upon period*]. We do this joyfully and in thanksgiving because of our conviction that each of us is created in the likeness of God who is a God of giving and creating.

We are able to respond by being givers and sharers ourselves.

While the stewardship of what has been given to us involves far more than money, we recognize that the tithing of our money is a critical and necessary way of witnessing to our faith and sharing with others.

This statement of commitment is to be reviewed and renewed each [*year, triennium, or other agreed upon period*] and a copy of this shall be sent to each [*vestry or bishop's committee*] member prior to the first meeting of the [*year, triennium, or other agreed upon period*] for their consideration. [*This section may also include language about sending a copy to nominees prior to each annual meeting, inviting them to become signatories should they be elected. The renewal language may also be attached to a newly seated vestry or bishop's committee's annual retreat.*]

We invite the [*members of Name of Church*] to join us in this witnessing of faith.

*modeled after The Executive Council Stewardship Statement, signed by the Presiding Bishop and the members of the Executive Council at their June 1987 meeting in Cleveland, as reprinted in *A Time for Vision: A Stewardship Handbook for Vestries*, published by The Stewardship Office of the Planning and Development Unit, The Episcopal Church Center, 1989 (revised 1993).