

Stewardship Team Annual Report, 2024-2025

Co-Chairs: Kenna McLeod, David Price

Members: Joe Delin, Donna LaRue, Patricia Reynolds

Staff Liaisons: Rev. Allison Palm, Ericka LaValley

Team Achievements:

Due to the start of the Building Our Vision reconstruction, the 2024-25 church year began with the end of our summer church services at Temple Beth Abraham and the beginning of services and activities held in Sylvia Trottier Hall at Rivier University. Our fundraising goals were successfully met.

The Stewardship Team organized a There's No Place Like Home themed auction and raffle from November 3 to November 10. The online format, like previous years, was used for the auction and raffle. On November 9, a live auction was also held, following the tradition of previous years. Auctria auction software was utilized for the sixth time to manage donations, bids, and raffle tickets. The experience gained from previous years and the work of the previous stewardship team proved invaluable.

The live auction took place at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Nashua, with Dave Hudson again showcasing his engaging auctioneer skills. Various soups, appetizers, desserts and beverages were served, and several lively bid-and-bump auctions were held for several items. Gift baskets donated by church teams were auctioned in the silent auction.

The total amount raised was \$12,920 plus there was an \$800 donation from the sale of a motor scooter that didn't sell in the auction, resulting in a grand total of \$13,720, a 23% increase over the previous year. The team credits the generosity and thoughtfulness of the congregation for the success of the auction, with donations ranging from household items to experiences, electronics, food, gift baskets, and gift cards. We hope to continue this momentum for the 2025 auction and raffle.

Since the theme "Lead with Love" worked so well in 2024, the theme was used again for the 2025 Stewardship Campaign, which was launched on February 2 with a stretch goal of raising \$425,000 in pledges. An information packet was distributed to all members and friends at the start of the campaign. Testimonials from church members, updates and progress reports were presented to the congregation on Sundays during the month, and a Stewardship Campaign information table was set up in the foyer. On March 3, a phonathon was held with the help of the Board of Trustees, reaching out to those who had not yet pledged.

The final amount pledged at the end of the campaign was \$413,000, a 2% increase from the previous year. A Stewardship Campaign is typically challenging when it coincides with a capital campaign, so it is especially notable that the congregation pledged this increase over the previous

year. Many thanks to all the members and friends who generously supported our caring community!

New members of the team this year include Joe Delin and Patricia Reynolds.

Co-chair Dave Price will be leaving the team in June to lend his expertise to other areas of the church after spending many years of hard work and dedication to stewardship!

Kenna McLeod will continue as chair for 2025-26. Thank you, Kenna!

Respectfully submitted by David Price
May 15, 2025