

# 2023 Stewardship Symposium

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Lenoir Rhyne University  
4201 North Main Street, Columbia, SC 29203  
Stavros Auditorium

Friday, January 27, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Financial Accountability and Empowerment for Missional Leaders

**Bonnie Ives Marden, Presenter**

9:00 Registration Opens

10:00 Welcome and Introductions – *Deacon Kimberly Heindl, Administrative Associate for the Rector and Dean*  
Opening Prayer – *Aaron Spangler, Seminarian, President, Student Body*

### 10:15 **The Story We Tell Ourselves about being Stewards**

Today's exercises and questions about our personal relationship with money will explore our origin stories and stewardship beliefs. We cannot lead others into spiritual disciplines, we do not practice ourselves. This experiential practice session equips us to draw others into a deeper connection with God's generosity and to be the courageous leader God sees in us. What happens when we talk about money and stewardship even when it is uncomfortable? Each exercise is replicable in your ministry setting as you challenge and empower yourself and the people you lead to talk courageously about money as a conduit for generosity.

11:15 Break

11:30 Action Planning Exercise: Create your own response to these questions.

1. What financial belief or story is impeding my leadership?
2. Who will I bless by increasing my honesty and vulnerability about financial well-being?
3. Describe places and groups where exploration of stewardship as a spiritual discipline can grow.

12:00 Lunch in Reinartz Hall

### 1:00 **What the World Believes about Stewards**

Financial best practices are not only about our own peace of mind, they are for the world that watches to see if we are trust-worthy stewards. Today's review of best practices, internal controls, and communication strategies, explores the strengths of your ministry setting and next steps to increase trust and accountability – from the world's perspective. Assessing the health of financial systems, practices and resources is year-round stewardship. How do policies and audits contribute to trust and confidence in our financial stewardship?

2:00 Break

2:15 Action Planning Exercise: Create your own response to these questions.

1. What financial stewardship practices build trust and credibility with our donors?
2. What financial disciplines strengthen our accountability to the world?
3. What changes could improve our financial stewardship trust, credibility and accountability?

2:45 Blessing of the Plans: Bonnie Ives Marden

*The Stewardship Symposium is an event offered by the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University and the LTSS/Region 9 Council for Stewardship Education. This event is funded by the LTSS/Region 9 Council for Stewardship Education, a matching grant from the Lilly Foundation, Thrivent Financial, and registration fees.*