

## **From “Giving Until it Hurts” to “Giving Until it Feels Good”**

For many people, terms like “sacrificial giving,” “giving ‘til it hurts,” and even the Biblical standard of the tithe – giving 10% of one’s income and resources – can engender feelings of resistance and guilt. At the Florida United Methodist Foundation, we are seeking new ways to think and talk about stewardship that emphasize the joy of giving.

Writing in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, Paul makes the familiar statement that our God “loves a cheerful giver.” So how do we get to the point that giving becomes fun? The first step is to understand that stewardship is not about the church’s need to receive, but about our need to give in response to God’s grace in our lives. When we shift our thinking from giving to support a church budget to giving in response to God’s abundant grace, we become open to God’s transforming power.

The next step is to become personally involved in the mission and ministry of your church. Involvement leads to ownership, and ownership leads to commitment. Commitment leads to financial support. All of which leads to joy in giving.

How is God calling you to give? How is God calling you to become involved in the mission and ministry of your church? How is God moving you to joyful giving?

The Foundation encourages Florida United Methodists to undertake the journey that leads to creative, joyful giving. For a copy of our brochure, “Ten Ways to Increase Your Standard of Giving,” please call, click or write us at 800-282-8011, extension 106, [www.fumf.org](http://www.fumf.org), or P.O. Box 3767, Lakeland, FL 33802.