A Forward Movement
Stimulant
For Congregational Committees

Office of Forward Work
Reformed Presbyterian Church
611 West 18th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas
CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES

Each congregation last year was asked to appoint three committees in connection with our forward work. Twenty-seven congregations reported that such committees had been appointed. The appointments were doubtless made in other congregations though not reported to us. An outline of work possible for these committees was given last year. Inquiries, however, keep coming in asking what ground these committees are designed to cover.

It has been deemed wise, therefore, to publish a concrete outline of work that would fall naturally to these various committees. There are three departments of work and therefore three committees to represent them. These are Spiritual Resources, Life Service and Stewardship. All of the Church's forward work can be included under these three heads.

Spiritual Resources

This part of our work is vital and fundamental. It has to do with the development of the spiritual life. It includes everything that will stimulate the Christian's growth and will increase the Christian's power.
It emphasizes the make up of grace. Prayer must have a larger place in the lives of our people. We must exercise more fully the ministry of intercession. The Word of God must have greater prominence in our daily experience. Religion in the home and the family altar must be more vital. Holy living must stand out more prominently in our daily contact with men. Our lives must be dominated by the indwelling presence of Christ.

Christ has great riches for us that we have never yet mined out. There are great possibilities of prayer that we have never discovered. He has great depths of divine power. We have hardly begun to fathom.

It seems unnecessary to say that unless our Forward Movement is built upon this Spiritual foundation it will rest upon the sand. All our physical achievement will be void of power except as it is vitalized by godliness.

The congregational Committee on Spiritual Resources is to pray and plan and work for the spiritual growth of the congregation. This Committee can in this field render untold service to the Church and the Kingdom.

COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

AIM.—To develop the Spiritual Life of the congregation.

1.—Meet statedly for prayer for the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

Would once a week be too often for such work? It need not mean an extra meeting each week. On prayer meeting evening or on the Sabbath have the Committee meet, say for fifteen minutes, to pray over the work. Consider the sheep and the work that need to be prayed for and bring them before the Committee. In the meeting time, to praying for the work in the church.

This is the Committee’s work in the church. The prayer ministry is the permanent work of the Spiritual Resources Committee.

2.—Set apart one meeting in the month principally for planning.

Talk over the congregation’s spiritual condition and needs and plan how best to meet them.

3.—Seek to organize the people into prayer groups.

It is important to get the people to praying together. In one congregation only three or four are in a group, but they meet a few minutes each week at the time and place most convenient for united prayer. What might this mean if carried out all over the Covenanter Church?

4.—Endeavor to enroll all the members as “Companions in Intercession.”

We have tried to enroll at least 5,000 Covenant Intercessors. At this date 4,692 have definitely responded. These have been gathered from 79 different congregations. We want to encourage all fields to continue unceasingly in prayer. We want also at
least to double this number. The Forward Movement office will furnish you any number of enrollment cards you desire. We lay no stress, of course, on the mere mechanical side of enrollment. We want no person's name for its own sake. A signed piece of paste-board may be merely a "scrap of paper." But we would like to know who are heart and hand with us in this service. If it is right to pray, is it not right to declare that it is our purpose to pray? We can furnish you a list of the members who have already enrolled from your congregation.

5.—Plan and pray for a greater interest in the Weekly Prayer-Meeting.

A pastor wrote, "I fear the devil has crippled our prayer-meetings." If this is true, we will have to rescue them and turn them over to Jesus Christ. Whether the pastor's statement is true or not, all will agree that our prayer-meetings are away below what a normal prayer-meeting ought to be.

The Committee on Spiritual Resources can help plan the program; all the members of the Committee can attend and take an active part, advertise the meetings, and influence others to attend. Then they can encourage less of formality and more of confidence and testimony in the meetings. A small group of earnest Christians under God's direction might revolutionize the weekly prayer-meeting in some of our congregations.

6.—Secure and distribute literature on Prayer, Bible Study, Family Religion, Consecrated Living, etc.

Encourage the use of the Bible Reading Folders, not in Family Worship, but in private devotions. See suggestion for literature below.

7.—Keep in touch with members out of bounds of the congregation.

Write them a letter. Keep them informed of the congregation's activities. Send them copies of the literature that is distributed to the congregation.

8.—Show particular interest in those not living as they should. Pray for them earnestly. Show yourself friendly to them. Watch for opportunities to help them, by an encouraging word and a helping hand, into their full privileges in Christ.

9.—Seek to attract to Christ and the Church those who are not Christians.

10.—Form a constituency of the people in your community whom you would desire to reach for Christ.

Make a list of persons whom you know, and whom you might have a reasonable hope of influencing for righteousness, then enlist the efforts of the congregation in reaching them.

11.—Allow no stranger to leave your church without a welcoming hand-shake and an invitation to return.

A severe indictment has been brought against some of our congregations by visit-
This gave these people a sense of responsibility that they had never felt before. The church sometimes has to be a hospital for the sick and dying, but its purpose should be to raise them up and get them out on the firing line of service as quickly as possible. Too many church members are content to ride in the ambulance when they should be on the ammunition train.

The normal church is not a bungalow of ease, but a beehive of activity. Every member should have something definite to do. It may be in connection with the Sabbath School, or the Young People's organization, or the Ladies' Missionary Society, or the Junior Band, or the Library, or the Eldership, or the Deaconship, or the Congregational Education work. Every member should have some particular work in the congregation for which he or she is responsible. Some work requires money, but nothing. Figure-heads do not count. The departments of the Church can function only through living, active beings.

The Second Aim of the Life Service Department is to guide young people into their life work. Very few of our young people are volunteers for Christian work. The congregation out of every four is now with-
out a pastor. Unless the Church is constantly fed with new leaders it is but a matter of time till the heart-beat must stop.

God has a blue-print of every life created in Jesus Christ. What an opportunity we have to intercept these young people and to mold them into the master-plan that God has for them!

COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

1.—Make your Committee a prayer group.
Most regularly to pray for the congregation's work and especially for its young people.

2.—Plan to enlist every member in some definite work in the congregation.
Try to make each person feel that he or she is a necessary part of the church organization.

3.—Give special attention to the children.
If your congregation has no Junior organization, take immediate steps to start one. Secure the best talent in the congregation if possible, to lead and superintend it.

When an old person is saved a soul is saved, but when a young person is saved, there is saved a soul plus a life. It is probably safe to say that at least 99 per cent of our religious leaders had their first impulses to enter the service of Christ before they were eighteen years of age.

4.—Make a prayer list of the young people of the congregation.
Encourage others to make such a list.

"Pray ye, the Lord of the harvest." Is not a lack of laborers the result of a lack of proper praying? Too many young people are drifting away because too few people are praying for them.

5.—Take special interest in the Young People's Meeting.

Attend frequently and give encouragement. Let the Committee provide an occasional social for the young people.

6.—Manifest friendliness with the Young People.
Assure them of your interest in their life work and of your prayers for their highest success.

7.—Write to those away from home.
Keep them in touch with the home news and the congregation's work.

8.—Provide and distribute literature calculated to lead Young People into their life work.

Keep the claims of the Kingdom constantly before the Young People. Many drift out into life with no serious thought of Christian work because the claims of Christ were not held before them when they were making their preparation.

The following literature published by The Association Press, 347 Madison Ave., New York
York City, will be of help to young people seeking guidance in their life work:

How Can I Find My Calling?—by Charles W. Gilkey

The Supreme Decision of a Christian Student—by Sherwood Eddy

What Constitutes a Missionary Call?—by Robert E. Speer

The Church's Challenge to Men—by Wm. Adams Brown.


Stewardship

Christians are apt to fail to grasp the real bigness of this week. Christian Stewardship lies at the very heart of Christianity. The world and everything in it belongs to God. Even we are not our own. Our bodies, our homes, our property, are given us to occupy for Christ.

The acknowledgment of this principle is vital to the Christian life. It isn't a matter of money or of paying the tithe alone. This is only one part of the stewardship program. It is an important part, however. It is a part which helps to index a man's position in Jesus Christ.

The Committee on Stewardship, then, has a field exceedingly great in its importance.

Their work is not so much to help raise money as it is to help raise men. Christians need the principle of stewardship for their lives far more than God needs the money for his Kingdom.

COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

AIM—To lead all of our members into the full enjoyment of their stewardship privileges.

1.—Meet regularly for prayer.

Pray for this department of work. Pray for those who are not living and giving as stewards of God. Pray for the financial officers that they may be protected from them. Pray that each member of the Committee might exemplify the principles of Stewardship in his or her own life.

2.—Seek fullest cooperation with the Financial Board.

Supplement the work of the financial officers. Hold an occasional meeting with them. Cooperate with them in making the Every Member Campaign.

3.—Arrange with the congregational treasurer to post each Sabbath the amount raised on the Budget.

The congregation should be constantly informed of the progress being made in raising their budget. See that the Stewardship Thermometer stands at the proper percentage each week.
4.-Secure and distribute Stewardship Literature.

Make the best use of the posters. Secure such literature as will educate the people in stewardship. Distribute it wisely. Do not leave it in the pews. Place it in the people's hands as though it were important. Ask the pastor to comment on it from the pulpit.

5.-Set a good example of Stewardship before the congregation.

Pay the tithe. Support the Budget. Use the Envelopes. Encourage a business system of finance in the congregation. Live up to the whole Stewardship Program and boost it in the congregation.

Suggested Literature on Stewardship:

Your Own or Another's—by David McConkney. Address Board of Press, Box 635, Auburn, N. Y.

Proportionate Giving—by Robert H. Spier. Address, same as above.


Various tracts on Tithe can be secured from "Lazarus," 34 North Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.


We have not quoted prices inasmuch as they are subject to frequent changes. A postal card will bring accurate information from the publishers themselves.

COMMITTEE HEART SEARCHINGS

Do you believe that a revival in our Church is absolutely necessary along these three lines of effort? The interest in your Committee work will be the answer.

Would you meet with your Committee once a week for prayer if a $50.00 check was to be given to everyone there? Will you meet any less willingly to pray and plan for the saving of Christ's Church?

If you knew that your Committee would be the means of bringing new life to one soul, or of guiding one young person into his life work, or of influencing one church member to become a Christian Steward, would you work and pray any more earnestly? You will probably accomplish far more than this! Can you measure the value of such a service?

If you think that the very life of your congregation depended upon a spiritual reviving, and that a united effort on the part of your leading members might be the means of saving the congregation's life, would you be one of the members to join in such an effort? That may be the situation in your congregation.

WHAT

Will your Committee do about it?

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."—2 Tim. 2:15.
THE FORWARD MOVEMENT

DELBER H. ELLIOTT, General Sec'y.
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