



**The Widow's Mite**  
**Mark 12:38-44, Luke 21:1-3**

## **The Florence District's Winter Training for Servant Leaders**

**"Cultivating Generosity in a  
COVID-19 Environment"**

Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 10 a.m.  
Rev. Angela Ford Nelson, M.Div., PMP© -  
Facilitator

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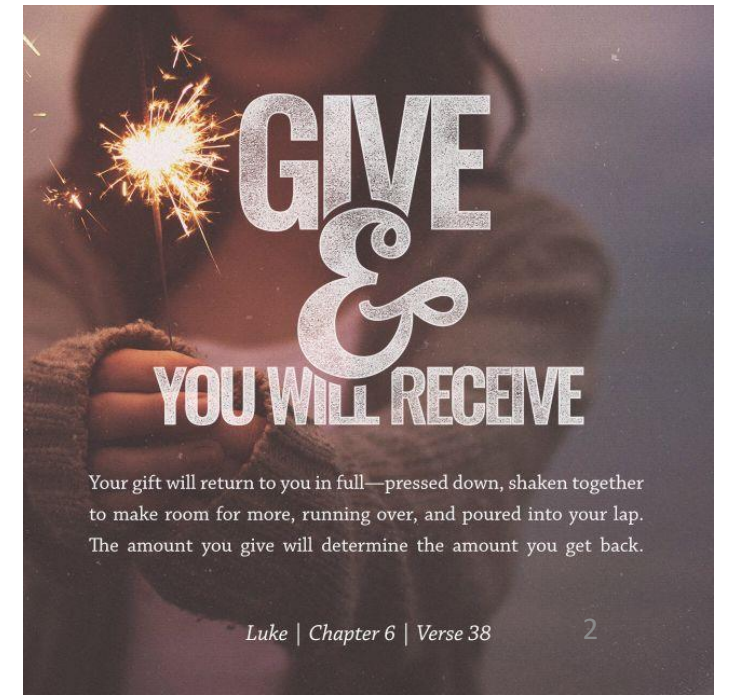
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864-787-4633

*Segment 1 - Introductions and Session Objectives*  
*Welcome to the Florence District's Servant Leadership Training 2020*

**Our Learning Goals (5 Minutes):**

1. Introductions and Session Objectives
2. Provide an Overview of Generosity from a Biblical Perspective
3. Provide an Overview of our Role as Financial Servant Leaders
4. Discuss COVID-19 Challenges and Approaches
5. Questions & Answers
6. Have Fun!
7. Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!



## *Segment 1 - Introductions and Session Objectives*

### *Welcome to the Florence District's Servant Leadership Training 2020*

#### ▪ **Introductions and Session Objectives**

- Rev. Angela Ford Nelson, M.Div., PMP©, Certified Spiritual Director
- Pastor of GHWC | 406 Black River Road, Camden, SC |  
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#### ▪ **A Giving Testimony**

**Luke 6:38**

- 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.
- **2019 - "I Am a Church Member" by Thom S. Rainer**
  - *Generosity isn't dependent upon 'environment' or 'season' – it's a matter of the heart! It's a characteristic of who we are as Members of the Body of Christ!" ARFN*

## *Segment 1 - Introductions and Session Objectives*

### *Welcome to the Florence District's Servant Leadership Training 2020*

- **2019 - "I Am a Church Member" by Thom S. Rainer**
  - I will be a functioning Church Member
  - I will be a unifying Church Member
  - I will not let my Church be about my preferences and desires
  - I will pray for my Church Leaders
  - I will lead my family to be healthy Church Members
  - I will treasure Church Membership as a Gift
  
- **Six Pledges – The 1<sup>st</sup> One...Give...**



*Segment 1 - Introductions and Session Objectives*  
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▪ **The 1<sup>st</sup> Pledge of "I Am a Church Member" by Thom S. Rainer**

- The First Pledge I am a church member. I like the metaphor of membership. It's not membership as in a civic organization or a country club. It's the kind of membership given to us in 1 Corinthians 12: "Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it" (1 Cor. 12:27). Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an "eye," an "ear," or a "hand." **As a functioning member, I will give.** I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that, "if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor. 12:26).

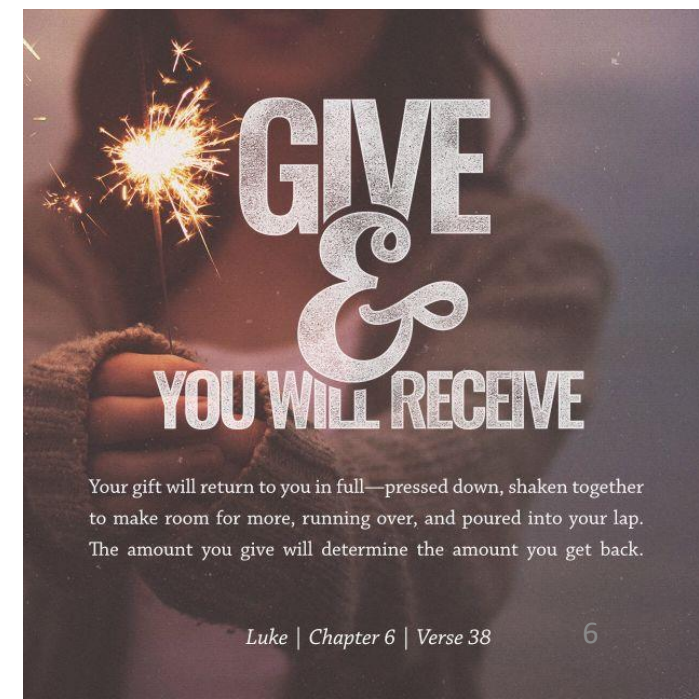


## *Segment 2 - A Biblical Perspective*

### *Welcome to the Florence District's Servant Leadership Training 2020*

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1. Introductions and Session Objectives
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*Segment 2 - Generosity: A Biblical Perspective*  
*Welcome to the Florence District's Servant Leadership Training 2020*

**2. Provide an Overview of Generosity from a Biblical Perspective**

**• The Widow's Mite**

- Mark 12:38-44, cf. Luke 21:1-3

**Mark 12:41 – 44 | The Widow's Offering**

- <sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.
- <sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

*Segment 2 - Generosity: A Biblical Perspective*  
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## 2. Provide an Overview of Generosity from a Biblical Perspective

- **What does this story teach us about generosity from a Biblical Perspective?**

- Were the rich being generous?
- Why was the widow generous from Jesus's perspective?
- What does this teach us about our call to be generous?
  - We are called to **TRUST IN THE LORD**



- Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not to your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5 - 6



*Segment 2 - Generosity: A Biblical Perspective*  
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## **2. Provide an Overview of Generosity from a Biblical Perspective**

### **Will a man rob God? Malachi 3:6 - 12**

**6**“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. **7**Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ **8**“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. **9**You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. **10**Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. **11**I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. **12**“Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

*Segment 2 - Generosity: A Biblical Perspective*  
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## 2. Provide an Overview of Generosity from a Biblical Perspective

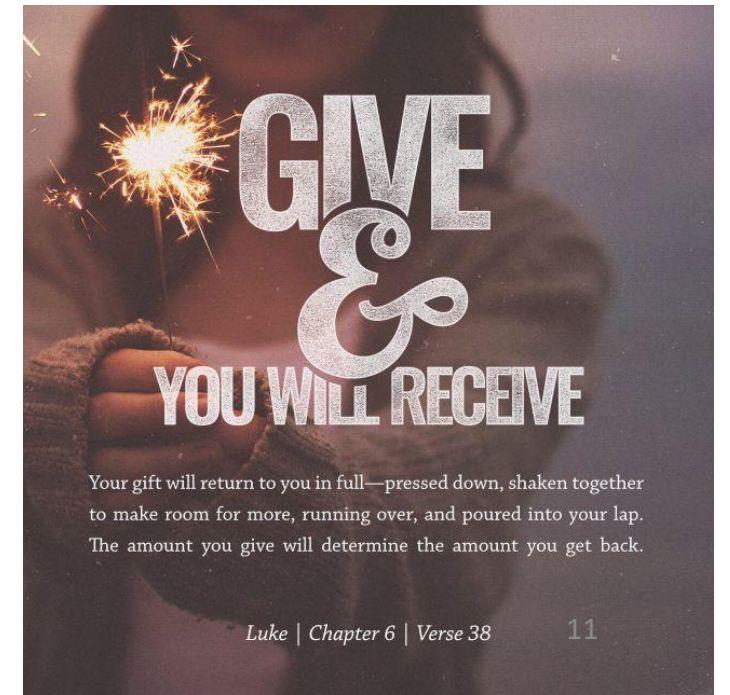
- **What does Malachi teach us about generosity from a Biblical Perspective?**
  - Why are we called to be generous?
  - What are God's promises concerning our generosity?
  - How are we to minister out of our generosity?
  - It all comes back to TRUSTING IN GOD
    - **The Penny**
- **God the Great Mathematician**
  - Matthew 14:13 – 21
  - When we divide, God multiplies!



*Segment 3 - Generosity: Our Role as Financial Servant Leaders*  
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*Segment 3 - Generosity: Our Role as Financial Servant Leaders*  
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### 3. Provide an Overview of our Role as Financial Servant Leaders

- *Book of Discipline: ¶ 258.4. Committee on Finance | The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church -- 2016*

The committee on finance shall give stewardship of financial resources as their priority throughout the year. It may delegate the responsibility to either a sub-group or task force that would plan, strategize, and implement ways to generate more resources for mission and ministries of the local churches and beyond. It is strongly recommended that the committee on finance, in collaboration with the church council, find creative ways to turn their congregations into tithing congregations with an attitude of generosity. All financial askings to be included in the annual budget of the local church shall be submitted to the committee on finance. The committee on finance shall compile annually a complete budget for the local church and submit it to the church council for review and adoption. The committee on finance shall be charged with responsibility for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the church council. It shall administer the funds received according to instructions from the church council.

[Book of Discipline: ¶ 258.4. Committee on Finance | The United Methodist Church \(umc.org\)](#)

*Segment 3 - Generosity: Our Role as Financial Servant Leaders*  
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3. Provide an Overview of our Role as Financial Servant Leaders

• *Book of Discipline: ¶ 258.4. Committee on Finance | The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church -- 2016*

- 1) The committee on finance shall give stewardship of financial resources as their priority throughout the year.
- 2) It may delegate the responsibility to either a sub-group or task force that would plan, strategize, and implement ways to generate more resources for mission and ministries of the local churches and beyond.
- 3) It is strongly recommended that the committee on finance, in collaboration with the church council, **find creative ways to turn their congregations into tithing congregations with an attitude of generosity.**

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3. Provide an Overview of our Role as Financial Servant Leaders

- *Book of Discipline: ¶ 258.4. Committee on Finance | The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church -- 2016*

4) All financial askings to be included in the annual budget of the local church shall be submitted to the committee on finance.

- The committee on finance shall compile annually a complete budget for the local church and submit it to the church council for review and adoption.
- The committee on finance shall be charged with responsibility for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the church council.

5) It shall administer the funds received according to instructions from the church council.

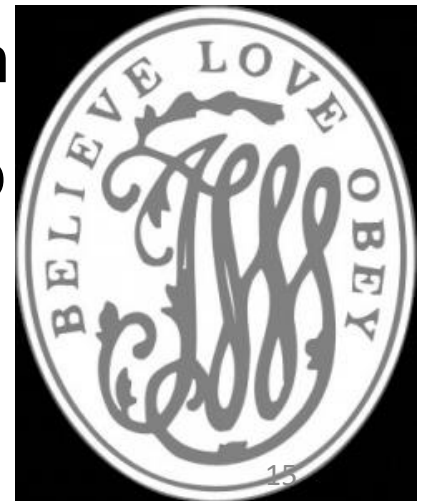
*Segment 3 - Generosity: Our Role as Financial Servant Leaders*  
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### **3. Provide an Overview of our Role as Financial Servant Leaders**

- **Our Social Principles as United Methodists:**

- “The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to the other 'mind-makers-up' that exist in our society.”

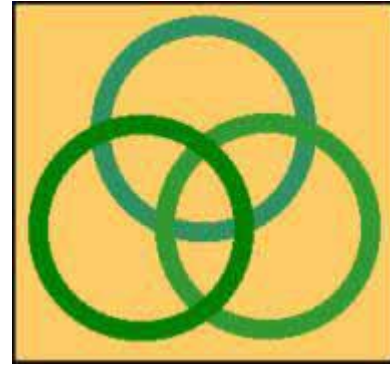
- Excerpt from The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016.
- Copyright © 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House.



*Segment 3 - Generosity: Our Role as Financial Servant Leaders*  
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### **3. Provide an Overview of our Role as Financial Servant Leaders**

- **The Missio Dei | God's Mission | A CALL TO DANCE WITH GOD!**
- The mission theology expressed in the Latin Missio Dei articulates the belief that mission is God's mission and we are God's instruments in that mission. The starting point of Missio Dei is a Trinitarian God: mission is the purpose and action of the triune God. The internal relationships of the Trinity also embody the way God acts in the world. The church, as a community of God's followers, becomes an instrument of God rather than the proprietor of the action. Mission then moves from something that churches do for the sake of God, to understanding the very nature of God as missionary and sending. It changes missions in the plural as if every church has a mission to mission in the singular. Because God is one, mission is one. In 1964 Stephen Neill, a mission historian from Britain wrote in his book *A History of Christian Missions*: "The age of missions ended. The age of mission began."<sup>5</sup>
- [Missiology: Missio Dei \(God's Mission\) - Global Ministries](#)

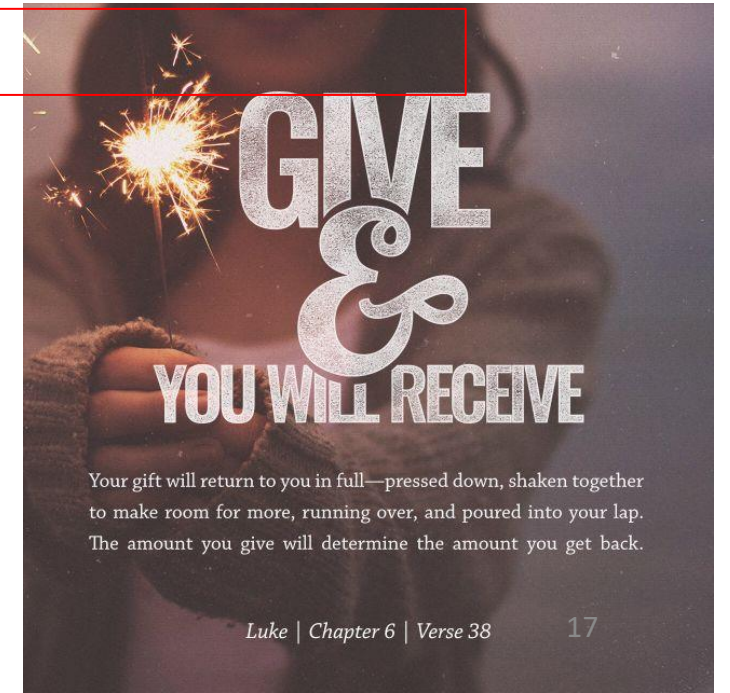




*Segment 4- COVID-19 CHALLENGES & APPROACHES*  
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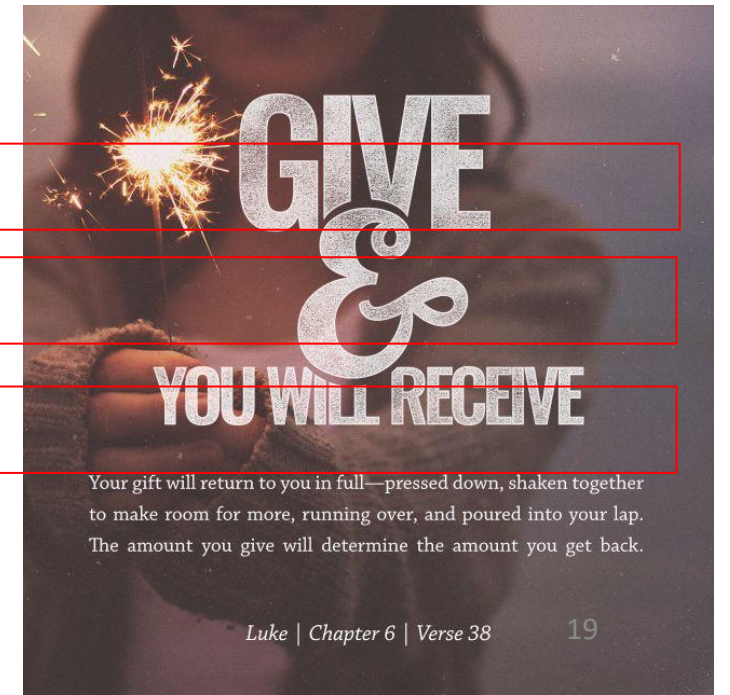
#### **4. Discuss COVID-19 Challenges and Approaches**

- **The Impact** [CapinCrouse-2020-Impact-of-COVID-19-on-Church-Giving.pdf](#)
  - 25% - None | 19% - Increase | 56% - Decrease
- **Our Experience**
  - Teaching and Preaching on The Body of Christ & Mission was foundational
  - Giving remained steady
  - New means of giving used
    - Givelify | P.O. Box | Sunday Morning after worship
  - Online appeals
  - Family Group Leaders
  - Thank You Letters from the Pastor
  - The Mission Continues....
- **Your Experience?**

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5. Questions/Answers/Resources
6. Have Fun! | How'd We Do?
7. Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!



## RESOURCES

### *Welcome to the Florence District's Servant Leadership Training 2020*

1. Finance Committee Job Description
  - [Book of Discipline: ¶ 258.4. Committee on Finance | The United Methodist Church \(umc.org\)](#)
  
2. A Missional Manifesto – Our Mission as United Methodists
  - [A Missional Manifesto for the People Called United Methodist – Only Wonder Understands](#)
  
3. UMC Giving – Why Do We Give?
  - <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving>
  
4. What about our Money: A Faith Response
  - [United Methodist Women - What About Our Money? A Faith Response Issue Mission Study: 2018 Mission u Leaders' resources](#)
  
5. Giving in the age of COVID-19
  - <https://www.capincrouse.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CapinCrouse-2020-Impact-of-COVID-19-on-Church-Giving.pdf>

*Go in Peace and Serve the Lord*  
*My Prayer for You!*  
*Thank you for Giving to the Lord!*

[\(488\) THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD by RAY BOLTZ with lyrics – YouTube](#)

I dreamed I went to heaven  
And you were there with me  
We walked upon the streets of gold  
Beside the crystal sea  
We heard the angels singing  
Then someone called your name  
You turned and saw this young man  
And he was smiling as he came  
And he said friend you may not know me now  
And then he said but wait  
You used to teach my Sunday School  
When I was only eight  
And every week you would say a prayer  
Before the class would start  
And one day when you said that prayer  
I asked Jesus in my heart  
  
Thank you for giving to the Lord  
I am a life that was changed  
Thank you for giving to the Lord  
I am so glad you gave



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