

**Conversation between Tara Holeman and Terry Birkel,  
2016 Stewardship Team Co-Chairs:**

*Tara:* Well, Terry, it's the First Sunday in October and you know what that means?

*Terry:* Sure! Today is the Nats' last regular season game, five days until the National League Division Series against the Dodgers. Am I missing something?

*Tara:* You might also remember that today is the kickoff of our 2017 Stewardship Campaign! October also means the start of our five-week period where through witnessing, sermons, and simply talking among ourselves we will be reminded of the joy we share here at Foundry. It's important to reflect and to join in pledging our support of next year's budget developed by the Management Board.

*Terry:* I was joking of course, as much as I love baseball in October, like everyone else, I really enjoy talking with my Foundry family about how our congregation each year generously supports our budget. I look around at our wonderful facility, see old and new friends all sitting on comfortable new pew cushions. I see our stunning new congregational hall. I smile when I see our engaged new pastor for connectional ministries, Will Green, listen to the glorious music program we have every Sunday, and recall our spirit-filled education and mission outreach. That is more exciting than the Nats winning the World Series (although that would be pretty cool, too).

*Tara:* This year our theme is "I am Foundry: Witnessing to the World." It builds on last year's theme of "I am Foundry" and Pastor Ginger will be giving sermons on the topic throughout the coming year. In the next few weeks we will have witnesses here at both services and online describing how their lives have been changed for the better by Foundry. We hope everyone turns in their pledge card or makes their online pledge in the coming weeks before October 30, when we will celebrate our collective giving on Consecration Sunday.

*Terry:* Yes, to be serious, while weekly non-pledge offerings amount to approximately 9% of our annual budgeted revenue, the single most important source of funding for our ministries comes from the payment of pledges made during our annual stewardship campaign. These pledge gifts provide 67%, or two-thirds, of the church's income. Critically, our pledges allow the leadership of Foundry to know what resources we have and to plan effectively for the ministries that allow us to deepen faith, create engaged communities and transform the world through God's love.

*Tara:* We have put these thoughts in our 2017 stewardship booklet [holds up], which I love to read. The booklet shows how much our church accomplished this year in ministry and mission as well as our ideas for expanding every facet next year. It makes all of us proud. After you get through 20 pages of highlights, you think, "Wow, are these folks engaged in an amazing array of ministry and mission!"

*Terry:* Yes, every year I am amazed at the collective spiritual energy our congregation displays. If the Nats have a tenth of that drive, getting by the Dodgers and Cubs will be easy. So stop by the stewardship table and pick up a copy of this inspiring booklet and next week we will be giving out this year's stewardship swag, a Foundry key chain. We hope many of you will take selfies holding this keychain throughout the country and abroad—as you witness to the world.

*Tara:* Terry and I look forward to talking to each of you as we circle the bases and hit another Stewardship Campaign home run.