Searching for a New and Better Way

For the summer months Pastor Dave, Marilyn Kostrzak, Steve Stoll, and Kent Mosebach participated in a series of six seminars called The Damascus Project. Taught by two nationally known ministers and stewardship gurus, the material focused on discovering a new, better, positive, and exciting way to do stewardship. Research was compiled by The Lake Institute on Faith and Giving.

The four of us had to consider: Is CUCC making a difference for our membership, our community, and our world? Or, looking ahead, what difference can CUCC make in our future together? We have been excited by our journey and are anxious to share our search for a new and better way of understanding generosity.

We learned:

- Generosity is a sign of gratitude for our blessings; generosity is how we live out our gratitude and thankfulness.
- Our people do well on special offerings: such as Service Sunday, Habitat, camp scholarships and Vacation Bible School.
- We should ask ourselves: What do I GET as a member of CUCC? What do I GIVE as a member of CUCC?
- Ministries need to develop clear mission statements and wish lists, then focus on achieving those.
- Generosity comes from religious involvement versus simply believing.
- God does not require a present, but our presence. Then generosity happens.
- All leaders are the difference makers. Clergy is the key.
- Donors don’t want to waste money. They want to know the amount they give makes a difference.
- We should ask: If our Church went away would it make a difference?

The four of us believe we found a positive, new, and better way to look at stewardship and practicing generosity. We hope you’ll notice the difference as the months roll by and grow with us.

This letter also announces our Stewardship Drive based on the 3Loves initiative. We hope you will enjoy seeing pictures and testimonies of our UCC family’s GENEROSITY and personal thoughts on what encourages them to give.

The Committee