# Stewardship Conversations

*From Oct 5, 2016 Focus*

Stewardship means different things to different people. I suspect that most members will tell you that it means making a financial pledge.  But is stewardship primarily about giving money?  Not really.

I recently had a pleasant conversation with a woman who, along with her husband (and two children), has been a member of Countryside Church for more than 5 years.

I asked her how she found CCUU.  Like many of us, she was raised as a Christian, but as she got older, she had difficulty believing what she was taught.  When her first child was born, she realized that she didn't want to raise him in a Christian church.  She expressed her doubts to her sister, who suggested that she consider a Unitarian Universalist church.  At the time, they lived in Chicago and found Second Unitarian.  They immediately felt comfortable there. Eventually they moved to the suburbs, tried a number of churches and wound up at CCUU.  Over time, they developed a connection to CCUU that they hadn't felt at other churches, which caused them to feel more invested in the health and wellbeing of CCUU and its community.

She and her husband made an intentional decision to give generous financial support, and she also gives generously of her time.  She has been active in religious education and is on the Worship Council and the Board.  When I asked her why she contributes time and money to CCUU, she said that she wants to ensure that CCUU is here for her family now and for generations to come.  Having a church like Countryside is important because it provides a religious community unlike any other.  She stressed the fact that when they first joined, her primary contributions were financial because time was tight, but over the years, she has continued to make intentional decisions to give more time and energy toward the church. For her, making connections with other members is just as important as making a financial contribution.

I couldn't agree more.

Gary LaBedz, Chair of the Stewardship Team