

# STEWARDSHIP GLOSSARY

*Source: A Dictionary for United Methodists, Alan K. Waltz, Copyright 1991, Abingdon Press. Used by permission*

**FISCAL YEAR** - Determined by the General Conference for The United Methodist Church to be the same as the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

**OFFERING** - The gifts and tithes brought by worshipers to the service. "Offering" is also used to describe the process of collecting or gathering the gifts, as in "taking up the offering." The term offering is also commonly used as the name for that portion of the worship service in which the tithes and offerings of those present are received. In United Methodist worship services, there is generally a period of instrumental or choral music while the tithes and gifts are being gathered. It is common practice for the tithes and offerings to be brought to the chancel area of the church and placed on the communion or Lord's Table as the congregation stands and sings the Doxology. The pastor then gives a prayer of thanksgiving and dedication of the gifts.

**STEWARDSHIP** - The devout investment or use of money, time and ability. In biblical times, a steward supervised a household or an estate. Today, as God's children, we deem God the source of all we have, seek to hold it in trust for God and desire to be "good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:10a)

*Source: Sharing God's Gifts Glossary of United Methodist Terms*

**TITHE** - Tithing is commonly understood as the giving of one-tenth of one's income for God. This standard of giving comes from several passages in Scripture (e.g. Genesis 28:10-22). The founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley, offered an even higher standard for giving, and for our entire approach to living.

*Source: [www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-does-the-united-methodist-church-teach-about-tithing](http://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-does-the-united-methodist-church-teach-about-tithing)*