

A New Look at Stewardship, **Currency of Truth**

Is truth the same as fact? Is there an absolute truth or does it vary based on a person's circumstances and opinions? Many today think truth is relative to the circumstances—that what is true for some is not necessarily true for others. Truth is affected by individual's situations and experiences. Truth can be skewed by messaging heard, messaging that resonates with groups of people, messaging that becomes their truth.



While there are different types of truth, four are important to understanding other's truth in the Stewardship365 program: factual, interpreted, experienced, and divine. **Factual truth** is supported by evidence. An individual's understanding of the facts, his/her perspectives and assumptions creates **interpreted truth** which in turn is affected by person's or groups' experiences in life becoming **experienced truth**. **Divine Truth** is the Word of God found in the Bible.

If there are variations of truth, how do we know what is true? The Hebrew word for truth is אמת composed of three letters that signify the first, middle, and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The Chinese word for truthful or genuine includes ideograms that represent ten eyes over a table. Both indicate the need of a comprehensive, inclusive approach finding when seeking the truth. Eric Law, author of Holy Currencies and founder of Kaleidoscope Institute writes,

“The ability to articulate individually and corporately the global/wholistic truth, both internally—the experiences of the different individuals and groups within the church/ministry—and externally—the experiences of the different individuals and groups in the community, the neighborhood, the town, the nation and the earth. The truth might be gifts that need to be lifted up and celebrated, naming the injustice and oppression against certain populations, or discovering our own lack of spiritual wellness.”

Using the currencies of Relationship and Gracious Leadership we can make genuine connections, both within CTK and local ELCA churches (internal) and the community and other faith churches (external), to develop mutually respectful relationships. Only then, while fully listening to others, can we learn their interpreted and experienced truths to discern their needs and find ways to serve based on Divine Truth.

In the coming months, the stewardship committee will provide opportunities for members, if desired, to be part of the truth-seeking journey. In the meantime, you can consider what you'd like to gain a fuller understanding of or someone you would like to get to know better. Refer to “The Currency of Relationship: Stewardship365” on page 6 of the November Table Talk for techniques to engage and find their truth, what is important to them, while conversing with others.

Be well, your Stewardship Committee

– Melinda Kufeld (Chair), Kris Adams, Cam Bauer, Alan Claassen, Linda Paschal, Pr. Pelz, and Debbie Pollak