



An Overview of

**NEW
CONSECRATION
SUNDAY**

By Herb Miller

This introduction to the *New Consecration Sunday* has been prepared by Heartspring Methodist Foundation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this information is to help a local Church determine whether they should embark on the spiritual growth program of the “New Consecration Sunday”.

PHILOSOPHY

New Consecration Sunday is a stewardship education program based on our Christian acceptance of God’s unconditional love and our need as stewards of God’s to make a faith commitment by giving a percentage of our income to God’s household, the Church. This is a spiritual growth program teaching giving as a response to God’s love and as part of the worship act. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages joyful giving rather than fundraising to meet a budget.

GOAL

There is a direct correlation between how Christian stewardship is defined and taught and the congregation’s giving response. The Church as the household of Christ is peopled by those who are called to know God through their stewardship walk with Jesus. The Church desires to contribute to God’s work by increasing individual giving proportionately.

BENEFITS

New Consecration Sunday teaches percentage giving as the path to growing cheerful givers. The program asks, “What percentage of your income is God calling you to give?” It refuels church members’ education about the faith connection between money and living in response to God’s love. Many churches experience a 10% or higher increase in giving.

GUEST LEADER

The *New Consecration Sunday* program requires the church to have a guest leader to serve as a consultant to the Planning Team as well as being the guest speaker on Consecration Sunday. Heartspring Foundation will provide the guest leader. If the date requested is unavailable we will assist the church in obtaining a guest leader. The guest leader meets with the church on three occasions:

1. To meet with the members of the Consecration Sunday Task Group six weeks prior to Consecration Sunday
2. To meet with all the leaders and their spouses at a Leadership Banquet one week prior to Consecration Sunday.
3. To speak at the Consecration Sunday Worship Service and join the congregation for the catered Celebration Luncheon.

THE TEAM

1. Team Chairperson
2. Leaders' Dinner Coordinator
3. Celebration Luncheon Chairperson
4. Announcer #1
5. Announcer #2
6. Announcer #3
7. Church Financial Secretary
8. Pastor

Team members may be, but are not required to be, members of your Finance and/or Stewardship Committee.

To learn more about *New Consecration Sunday* call Heartspring Methodist Foundation at 713-533-3780 or 1-800-521-9617.

New Consecration Sunday materials can be purchased online at www.cokesbury.com.