

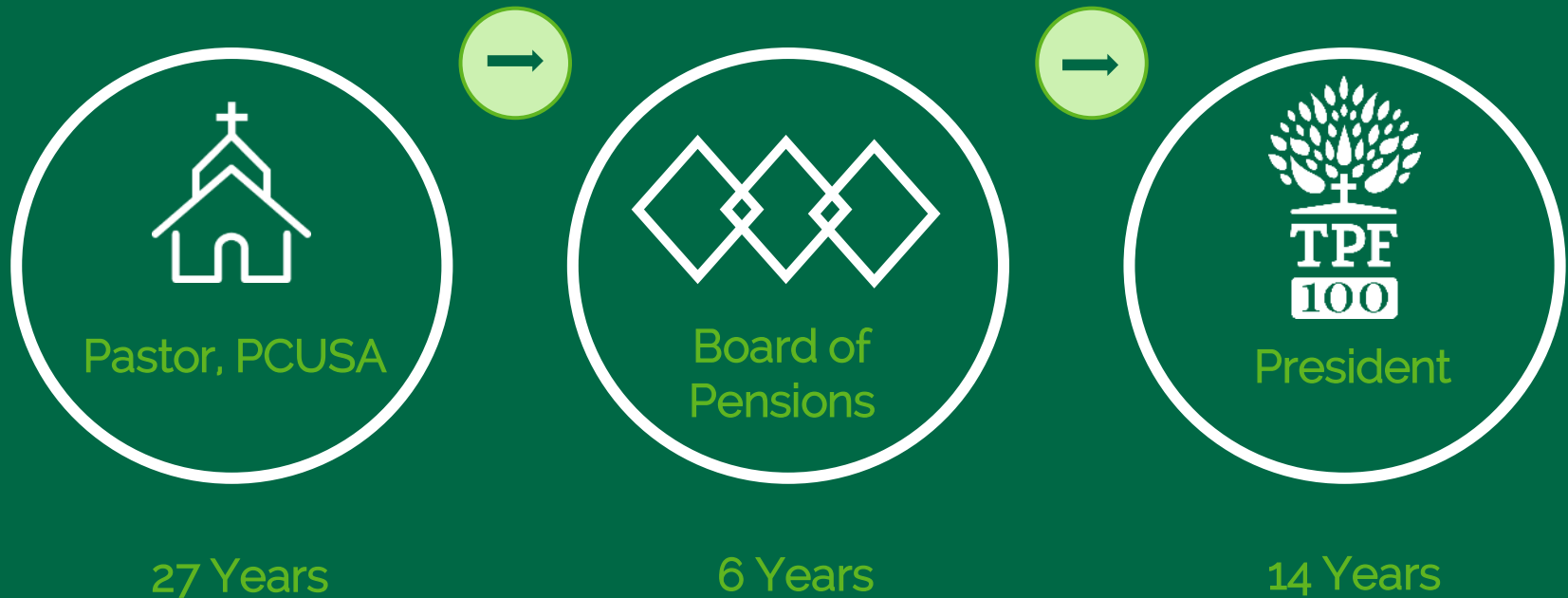


Tales from the Trails

Stewardship for All Seasons and Reasons

A Presentation from The Rev. Dr. Rick Young

A little bit about me...



Your Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Rick Young



TODAY'S

AGENDA

1. **Case Study 1:** Called to Lead, Challenged to Budget: A Pastor's Early Test
2. **Case Study 2:** Crossing into Chaos: When Church Finances Lack a Compass
3. **Case Study 3:** The Silent Pulpit: Avoiding the Money Talk
4. **Case Study 4:** The Absent Investor: A Cautionary Tale of Church Finances



Case Study 1:

Called to Lead, Challenged to Budget: A Pastor's Early Test



The Hopeful Beginning

A NEW PASTOR, A NEW HOPE

1. Pastor warmly welcomed as the “one who can right the ship.”
2. Congregation hopeful and expecting change.
3. First few months full of optimism and energy.





The Hidden Reality

A BUDGETING WAKE-UP CALL

1. Pastor warmly welcomed as the “one who can right the ship.”
2. Congregation hopeful and expecting change.
3. First few months full of optimism and energy.



Case Study 2:

Crossing into Chaos: When Church
Finances Lack a Compass



The Discovery

A NEW WORLD OF FINANCES

1. You join the Stewardship & Finance Committee in a 200-member suburban church.
2. Expecting structure but find lax or missing procedures.
3. Pastor is the only authorized check signer.
4. Treasurer in role for 30 years and eager to retire.
5. No financial reports given to session or congregation.





The Dilemma

WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

1. Clear lack of accountability and transparency.
2. Long-serving structures resistant to change.
3. You bring experience from a larger, well-structured church.
4. Key Question: What first steps will build trust, order, and stewardship?



A group of four people (two men and two women) are hiking on a dirt path through a forest. They are all wearing backpacks and using trekking poles. The man on the far left is wearing a striped shirt and jeans. The woman next to him has curly hair and is wearing a black jacket. The man next to her is wearing a blue plaid shirt and khaki pants. The woman on the far right is wearing a grey hoodie and jeans. They are all smiling and looking towards the right. The background is a dense forest with green and yellow leaves. The text 'Case Study 3:' is overlaid on the bottom left of the image in a green, bold font.

Case Study 3:

The Silent Pulpit: Avoiding the
Money Talk



The Avoidance

THE SEASON NO ONE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT

1. Stewardship season is approaching, and the pastor is uncomfortable preaching about money.
2. Believes finances are “too personal” for the pulpit.
3. Congregation used to a “light” touch at best.
4. Decision made to invite a Foundation friend to give the sermon instead.



The Challenges

STEWARDSHIP BY PROXY?

1. Missed opportunity for authentic pastoral leadership.
2. Reinforces taboo of money in faith.
3. Weakens trust and ownership in the community.



A photograph of three children running away from the camera on a dirt path through a forest. The sun is shining brightly from the top center, creating a lens flare and illuminating the scene. The trees are tall and thin, with green foliage. The path is made of dirt and small stones. The children are running towards a small building visible in the distance.

Case Study 4:

The Absent Investor: A Cautionary Tale of Church Finances



The Promise

A VOLUNTEER INVESTOR STEPS IN

1. Church funds invested in Foundation with strong returns.
2. New Finance Committee member offers to invest funds at no cost.
3. Committee, impressed by his expertise, agrees to transfer money.
4. First 18 months bring excellent performance, optimism, and trust.





The Problem

WHEN TRUST BECOMES RISK

1. Investor stops attending committee meetings and worship.
2. Reports become irregular and incomplete.
3. No oversight or accountability in place.



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Q&A

THANK
YOU!

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For questions or more information, please reach out to us.

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