

Stewardship Comes in All Sizes, Shapes, and Colors

About the Leaders:

Deborah Rexrode, Ph.D., Associate for Stewardship, Presbytery of the James



Deborah Rexrode serves as the Associate for Stewardship with the Presbytery of the James. She is an ordained Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and brings to the Presbytery a background of research, study, and application of the theological understanding of stewardship and the importance of ongoing stewardship education in our congregations. She provides consultation to pastors, sessions, and stewardship committees with stewardship campaigns, capital campaigns, and planned giving.

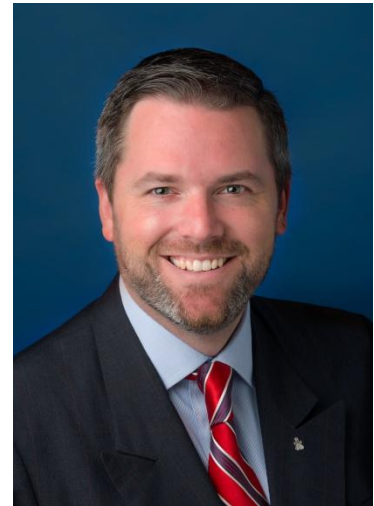
Deborah has an M.A. and a Ph.D. in the Sociology of Religion from the University of Virginia. Her research and doctoral dissertation focused on stewardship and the role of clergy in providing strong financial leadership in their congregations. She recently received an Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising from the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University. In addition to her academic background, Deborah has significant experience in both small and large congregations as a leader in finance, stewardship, worship, Christian education, and congregational care.

Prior to coming to the Presbytery of the James, Deborah was the Assistant Director and Senior Project Coordinator at the Center for Survey Research at the University of Virginia. She conducted research in all areas of the social sciences as well as health-related areas of research. She has training in data analysis and utilizes this experience when reviewing giving data in congregations as a way to understand the culture and the giving behavior of a congregation.

Deborah has served the Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA) in many capacities. She moderated a Listening Team and an Administrative Commission, served on the Leadership Connections Team, and helped to organize a Christian Education Purpose Group for the Presbytery. Deborah was an Alternate Commissioner for the 221st General Assembly (2014) and a Commissioner at the 222nd General Assembly (2016) serving on the Middle East Issues Committee. Deborah served as the Moderator of the Camp Hanover Ministries Purpose Group and is currently the Development Director for Camp Hanover. She also serves as a liaison between the Presbytery and the Presbyterian Foundation.

Rev. Raymond Bonwell, Director, Learning and Development, PCUSA Board of Pensions

Raymond Bonwell is currently responsible for equipping colleagues with the knowledge, skills and abilities to be their best at the Board of Pensions in Philadelphia. He started at the Board as an Education Specialist, leading seminars across the country and assisted in developing additional education resources for plan members and the broader Church community. He has also overseen training for Plan Operations, the Board's largest team, responsible for providing front-line service to members and employers.



Before joining the Board of Pensions in 2012, Raymond was Director of Programs at Princeton Theological Seminary for more than five years, overseeing continuing education opportunities for clergy and laity and contributing to degree programs. A graduate of the University of Michigan (B.A. Economics), Raymond had a twelve year professional career in financial planning and investments before earning his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Raymond has been a guest speaker at several seminaries, teaching seminarians about financial statements and the business of the church. He has also presented at national and regional conferences for Presbyterians, Methodists and Lutherans.

Raymond has served the church in pastoral capacities, including pulpit supply in more than seventy-five churches, and serving congregations in West Virginia as a commissioned ruling elder and in New Jersey as a teaching elder. He has served on various presbytery committees (Mission Interpretation and Stewardship, Permanent Judicial Committee, Educational Ministries), elected to a financial oversight task force, and has served as a synod commissioner and a synod trustee. Raymond and Heidi, his wife, live in Newtown, PA with their three children, where he is a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.