BRIARWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Every Member Commitment Self-Evaluation Tool

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Dear Briarwood Family,

Ever since Briarwood church was established, there has been an emphasis on intentional stewardship of each member's time, talents, and treasures. Through the years, Pastors Barker, Reeder, and now Redd have preached on the Lord's unique giftings to His people which are meant to be used to further His Kingdom and build up His Church. Because of this stewardship focus, Briarwood conducts the annual Every Member Commitment (EMC) to help the congregation reflect, consider, commit, and mobilize their God-given time, talents, and treasures for Christ's Church.

In order to help you navigate this time of considering what things the Lord is calling you to steward, the Briarwood Deacons have developed this EMC Self-Evaluation Tool. This guide is not meant to be turned in or shared with others. Rather, it is to be used during your quiet time with the Lord for self-reflection and prayer as you are preparing for the EMC. This tool contains scripture verses specifically addressing stewardship of time, talent, treasures, and whole-life stewardship followed by questions to assess how you steward these aspects of your life. These questions are meant to help you consider what gifts the Lord has given you, and how you are stewarding these gifts for His glory, and for His church's good.

There are many ways to use this tool. There are four sections (Time, Talents, Treasure, Whole-Life). Scripture references and reflection questions are in bold, and you can skip directly to these. Alternatively, you can read one section each day as you prayerfully meditate and wrestle with the Lord through each question. You can answer the questions in your head and heart, but we encourage you to consider writing your answers down so you can compare your answers from year to year as you prepare for the EMC.

If you need help determining what spiritual gifts God has given you, please consider taking the Spiritual Gifts Assessment. If you discover that you are not fully utilizing your gifts for the Lord, consider reviewing the Briarwood Master Ministries list at briarwood.org and consider if the Lord is calling you to serve in one of these ministries.

This time of self-evaluation may be convicting, knowing that we all fall short of what God has called His people to steward. However, the deacons pray that this tool will encourage our members to be intentional about stewardship and highlight the tremendous honor, privilege, and joy that the Christian has to join in God's holy work.

In Christ,
The Stewardship Education Committee

Time

Psalm 90:12: *So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*
John 9:4: *We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.*

1. **Do I effectively and intentionally use the time God gives me, knowing that opportunities to serve His Kingdom are limited, and will not last forever?**

Ephesians 5:10, 15–17: *10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

2. **Do I view my time as something God has entrusted to me, rather than something that is my own?**
3. **How much of my typical week is intentionally devoted to things that honor God?**

Matthew 6:33: *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
Colossians 3:1–2: *1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

4. **Is seeking God truly the highest priority in my life, or does He receive whatever time is left over?**
5. **If someone examined how I spend my time (leisure, work, relationships), would they conclude that Christ is central in my life?**

Psalm 1:1–3: *1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*
Mark 1:35: *And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*
1 Thessalonians 5:16–18: *16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

6. **Do I regularly spend unhurried time reading and meditating on God's Word? Am I willing to rearrange my schedule when necessary to make time for God's Word and prayer?**
7. **Do I contribute to the needs of the saints by spending intentional time lifting up Briarwood members and ministries in prayer?**

Galatians 5:13: *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*
1 Peter 4:10: *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

8. **Do I allow enough margin in my life to encourage, help, disciple, visit, or care for those within and outside of the church?**

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1 Timothy 5:8: *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
Ephesians 5:25, 33: *[25] Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... [33] However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*
Ephesians 6:4: *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

9. **Am I giving my spouse, children, parents, and other important relationships the time and attention God has called me to give, or am I only physically present with them, but distracted by other things (phone, work, entertainment, anxious thoughts)?**

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2 Corinthians 4:18: *As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*
Mark 1:15: *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.*

10. **How much time do I spend reminding myself of the Gospel and sharing the Gospel with others?**
11. **When I look back on the past year, what evidence is there that I have invested my time in things that matter eternally?**

Exodus 20:8–10: *[8] Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. [9] Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, [10] but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD*

your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.
Mark 2:27: *The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.*
Mark 6:31: *And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.*

12. **Do I appropriately steward my time for Sabbath rest?**
13. **Am I so busy that I regularly neglect rest, worship, family, or time with God? Have I confused being constantly busy with being spiritually productive?**

Talents

Romans 12:3-8: *3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*
1 Corinthians 12:4-7: *4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

1. **What innate skills, professional talents, or unique spiritual gifts has the Lord given to me to steward?**
2. **What specific strengths, abilities, or giftings have others in my Christian community recognized, affirmed, or thanked me for?**
3. **How does my unique temperament shape or influence the way I best express my gifts? (e.g., Do I thrive in public, private, visionary, supportive, technical, relational, etc. roles?)**

Colossians 3:23-24: *23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*
Exodus 35:30–35: *30 Then Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, 32 to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, 33 in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. 34 And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. 35 He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer.*

4. **Where am I currently deploying my unique talents to support and build up my local church community?**
5. **In what ways am I actively using my unique gifts outside the church walls (in my career, neighborhood, or household)?**

1 Peter 4:7-11: *7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

6. **When I serve, what specific activities come naturally to me that others might find difficult? Are there areas where I feel "God made me for this!" which I should prioritize pursuing?**
7. **Am I currently serving in some roles out of mere guilt and obligation rather than alignment? Should I transition to serving other areas more suited to my giftings, or is this a situation where God is calling me to serve sacrificially?**

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1 Corinthians 15:50-58: *50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*
"Death is swallowed up in victory."
55 "O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?"
56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
2 Timothy 1:6-7: *6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

8. **What is one practical step I can take this month to sharpen, grow, or fan into flame the unique strengths God has given me?**

Treasure

Psalm 24:1: *The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein*
1 Chronicles 29:14: *For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.*

1. **Do I consciously regard all my possessions as belonging to God, entrusted to me for faithful stewardship rather than personal ownership?**

Deuteronomy 8:17–18: *17 Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' 18 You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*

2. **Do I remember that my ability to earn, manage, and increase wealth is itself a gift from God?**

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1 Corinthians 16:2: *On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper...*
Proverbs 3:9: *Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce*

3. **Do I give to the Lord regularly, proportionately, deliberately, and as worship — or only occasionally, emotionally, or from what remains?**

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2 Corinthians 9:7: *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
Exodus 35:21: *And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution...*

4. **Does my giving reflect cheerfulness and gratitude, or reluctance, resentment, pride, or mere duty?**

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2 Samuel 24:24: *I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.*
Mark 12:43–44: *43 ... this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. 44 ... she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.*

5. **Does my giving ever require sacrifice, self-denial, or rearranged priorities?**

Galatians 6:6: *Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.*
1 Timothy 5:17: *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*

6. **Am I materially supporting the ordinary ministry of the local church, including the preaching of the Word, worship, discipleship, mercy, and missions?**

Proverbs 19:17: *Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.*
1 John 3:17: *But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?*
James 1:27: *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

7. **Am I open-handed toward the poor, the needy, the widow, the orphan, and the vulnerable, or do I excuse indifference as prudence?**

Matthew 6:24: *No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*
Luke 12:15: *Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*

8. **Has wealth, comfort, security, or financial success become functionally necessary to my peace, identity, or sense of control?**

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1 Timothy 6:9–10: *[9] But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. [10] For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.*
Hebrews 13:5: *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*
Philippians 4:11–13, 19: *[11] … I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. [12] I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. [13] I can do all things through him who strengthens me. [19]*

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

9. **Do I detect in myself the love of money — envy, greed, discontentment, material comparison, fear of losing status, or a willingness to compromise righteousness for gain?**

Matthew 6:19–21: *[19] Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, [20] but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
Colossians 3:1–2: *[1] ... seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

10. **Am I laying up treasure primarily on earth or in heaven?**

Matthew 6:31–34: *[31] Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' [32] For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. [34] Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*
Matthew 10:29–31: *[29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. [30] But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. [31] Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

11. **Do financial pressures lead me to unbelieving anxiety, as though my Father does not know what I need?**

Whole Life

1 Corinthians 13:1-3: *[1] If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

1. **What is the primary motivation of my heart when I serve or give—is it to quietly honor God and love others, or do I find myself craving visible recognition and approval?**
2. **What is my internal reaction when my efforts go entirely unnoticed or unthanked?**

1 Corinthians 10:31: *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
Ephesians 2:10: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

3. **Do I view every day and every experience as an opportunity to be God's ambassador in the big moments and in the mundane ones alike?**

James 1:17: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

4. **Do I regularly take inventory of the good gifts that God has entrusted to me? (count my blessings, name them one by one)**

Matthew 25:21: *His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."*

5. **Do I view the gifts God has given me as things to invest and deploy for His kingdom and His glory, knowing that I will one day give an account for how I stewarded them?**

Psalm 139:23–24: *[23] Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! [24] And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the*

way everlasting!

1 Corinthians 4:1–2: *[1] This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. [2] Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.*

6. **What area of life is my stewardship the strongest? Have I paused and thanked the Lord for His faithfulness in this area?**
7. **What area of life is my stewardship needing the most improvement? Have I sought the Lord for forgiveness, help, and specific steps to grow in this area?**

Psalm 90:17: *Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!*

8. **What are specific ways I can look to the Lord in the upcoming year, ensuring my stewardship of Time, Talents, and Treasure are for His glory and the good of His Church?**
9. **What are practical ways I can anticipate the goodness of God in the year ahead?**