

Providing For Humanity

Stewardship is a full-fledged embrace of automation. While some people may look at automation and see a jobpocalypse. Stewardship sees an opportunity to provide for the human race: to create the post-scarcity future previously envisioned in sci-fi novels.

To become a Steward is to provide for humanity. It is a secular devotion rivalling any monastic order but allows for all creeds of humanity.

In order to become a Steward, you must provide for a community without receiving anything in return. (This explicitly includes prestige or recognition for providing for that community) That is the only explicit requirement. Someone that provides for their community but receives something or anything in return is not a Steward. Someone that receives nothing from their community but cannot adequately provide for them is also not a Steward.

A Steward is also not part of the community they provide for. They have no say in the community's affairs or its governance. Their role is strictly infrastructural and that is the only role they play in their community.

Stewardship should be considered a calling/commitment for life. While we appreciate the desire to help people, we also want to avoid the types of personalities that engage in poverty tourism to do a few charitable acts and then head home. The world can't be changed over a single summer vacation.

What you just read is the most important thing about Stewardship. Take it and run with it however you like. The following are some more ideas that go along with what I've envisioned:

Stewardship Precepts

- A Steward provides yet asks for nothing.
- A Steward consumes only that which they are able to provide or are given by other Stewards.
- A Steward follows the law.
- The first priority for any Steward is their residents.

The Character Of A Steward

The greatness of a Steward can be measured by the number of people they provide for and the quality of life with which they provide.

A Steward may never engage in violence unless they are doing so to preserve the life of a resident. This does not mean they may sacrifice another human's life to preserve the life of a resident, only that a Steward may act to neutralize a threat towards a resident.

A Steward has no privacy and surrenders all rights to privacy when taking the vow of Stewardship. This means that they must take every effort to record every aspect of their life and present that record willingly to anyone. The only time a Steward is allowed any privacy is in regards to the security of the residents under their care. This should be limited only to necessity, and there should still be a record but this record would be for those relevant in a security capacity.

(The reason why a lack of privacy is so important is that we are not a cult. We are not a conspiracy. We have nothing to hide. The people in our residential communities and the people considering joining our residential communities should know that we have no secret agenda and the only way they can know that is if they see what we are up to.)

Requests for private meetings with a Steward are denied unless in the previously mentioned situation regarding a resident's security. This applies to everyone. Not just the residents in their care. The only other situation in which a Steward should willingly engage in any kind of secrecy is when they are compelled by force or the threat of force.

The Steward creates and should therefore strive to only consume products of their own creation. If they are unable to, the consumption or utilization of an object or objects created by another Steward (preferably one close in their lineage) shall suffice. The only exception to this rule is that Stewards may use tools from any creator but they should strive even in this situation to make their own tools.

A Steward only needs a maximum of 56 sq ft of personal space. A Steward should never be interpreted as living a life of luxury. The life of a Steward is the life of an ascete.

A Steward & Their Community

A Steward may not meddle in a resident community's affairs. A steward provides but never influences.

A Steward may not consume food that is not available to their resident community.

There are only two exception to this rule: when taking business meetings and when travelling. When a meeting is suggested that involves food, the Steward should respond with an attempt to hold the meeting in an appropriate venue where food will not be the focus. Only one attempt is necessary and they may acquiesce if the party insists or the party would prefer a food-based venue. A Steward may not consume this food by themselves (with no one around them) unless

it is solely for sustenance. This applies to travelling as well. Consumption of food that is not provided to their resident community is for sustenance and not for pleasure.

The only value a Steward has in life is the value they provide to their community.

As stated before, a Steward may not meddle in a resident community's affairs, but they are required to provide for any resident currently in their care. This means that a community cannot prevent a legal adult from leaving their community and joining another.

If a Steward is dependent on residents in order to provide for their community, they have failed and should be replaced with another Steward.

A Steward places their residents before everything. Before their own lives if need be.

A Steward must always follow the law. If their community desires to break the law, this is the only time a Steward must counsel their community but a Steward is still obliged to their community.

A Steward does not supply weapons for their community to defend themselves unless it is in a recreational capacity. Ensuring the safety of their community is the duty of every Steward so defense is a Steward's responsibility and long term thinking is essential in this regard. If a certain location becomes untenable, it is more important to move the community than to defend it.

A Steward speaks their community's language and respects a community's culture. The underlying thought process behind this is that white savior-ism is unacceptable. **We are not saving people. We are providing for them.**

Prohibited Interactions With Residents

Congregating privately with a resident in any fashion is strictly forbidden.

Stewards may only communicate individually with residents one day out of the week. All other communication must be non-verbal but should never be equal to or surpass the equivalent complexity of a sign language. The only time this may be broken is in a life and death matter.

To be explicit, the previously mentioned prohibition is against interactions with *individuals*. A Steward should be in touch with their community through some kind of system of communication that is not dependent on individual communication.

Stewards may not physically touch any resident unless it is to protect that resident or another resident from that resident. This may be broken in moments of severe distress or to save their life but should never be allowed on a casual basis.

A Steward may never accept gifts or take anything from a resident except on a community holiday. These holidays are ordained formally by their respective communities. This includes any birthdays and any other holidays outside of community holidays. (The reason why Stewards are allowed to receive gifts in this capacity instead of an outright ban is to give communities a way to give back to their Steward and free themselves of any burden of reciprocity they may illogically feel towards their Steward. To be explicit, there is no actual burden of reciprocity, because it is a Steward's duty to provide for their community.)

A Steward can never accept money or any financial instruments as a gift from a resident. This includes gifts from the community as a whole and to the Stewardship lineage as an organization.

Prohibition Regarding Residents

Stewards shall not make any rules for residents except for the following:

- a resident cannot touch or assault a Steward
- a resident cannot demand to privately interact with a Steward
- a resident cannot demand a Steward to break their oath of communication

Residents may not enter a Steward's area without their permission. Doing so may result in immediate expulsion at the Steward's inclination. This is not limited to a Steward's personal space but also the entire infrastructural space used to provide for that community that is not deemed accessible to the community.

The only rule that applies between residents and doesn't involve Stewards is that residents may not work for each other or buy things from each other. This means that no resident should receive or give money for goods or services. This includes bartering. The spirit of this is that people should freely give to each other as members of their community in the spirit of building trust and communion. There is no actual enforcement of this but violations are recorded and communities are considered to be noncompliant and therefore ineligible for basic income.

Populating A Residential Facility

The selection process for new residents entering a currently-occupied facility is decided by that community.

The selection process for a newly-created facility follows the following order of precedence:

1. current residents who wish to leave their current facility
2. former residents in good standing who wish to return to a facility
3. family members of current residents
4. people who current residents vouch for
5. everyone else

An initial population should not exceed 50% occupancy and the remaining occupancy should be determined by that initial population after they've taken up occupancy.

As has been previously stated, no community can create a rule that prevents an adult in their community from leaving or going to another facility.

All residents should be evaluated according to an algorithm and given a score as to how they rank compared to other residents. That score is only used to determine the order of precedence within the previously aforementioned categories and should only be discussed during this time period.

A resident who was expelled by a community may enter a new facility if the presiding Steward of both their previous facility and their new facility and any current residents that will be moving in agree.

A resident who was expelled by their Steward is not considered in good standing and should not be eligible for the initial population of a new facility. They can, however, be selected to join another facility by that community if the presiding Steward signs off on it. (The presiding Steward should be counseled by the Steward that expelled the resident or if that not is possible, a more senior Steward.)

Family members of current residents are defined informally and do not require legal paperwork, or ancestral lines of descent. Certain families may have a large amount of people that they wish to be provided for, and because of this, an algorithm should be created to take into account the current standing of all family members currently living in a facility, the number of people in that family already living in a facility, and the number of people in that family currently applying. The algorithm should be optimized for the maximum number of unrelated families living together. (The intention with this is to avoid a facility entirely or largely housed with a single family led by a single patriarch or matriarch because this may create a situation where the Steward becomes more loyal to that family than to the Steward organization they came from. At that point, the Steward is just an unpaid butler of sorts.)

For the people who are being vouched for, these are done in order of precedence as to the average score of the residents vouching for them.

For everyone else, they should be taken on a case by case basis evaluated by a group of Stewards. If there are ten spots left, possibly have each person choose their top ten and the people who are most highly recommended by the group will be placed into the facility.

The Lineage of Stewardship

As was previously stated, anyone providing for a community without receiving anything in return is a Steward, but Stewards being human beings and human beings being social animals, it is important to allow for clarification and distinction between groups of Stewards.

A Steward community is defined by their founder or founder(s). Every Steward should be thinking long term and at a minimum, should be considering what happens to their community when they die. People who wish to embrace Stewardship can apprentice under successful Stewards so they understand how it should be done and Stewardship is also given continuity in this process. This continuity should be considered a lineage descending from the founders and passed on to their apprentices. It may diverge into new groups or groups may merge but this is how the quality of a Steward organization is evaluated: through these distinct lineages.

Apprentices not only allow for the continuing provision of communities but also allow for new communities to be created when an apprentice is ready for that responsibility.

No physical contact should be allowed between a Steward and an apprentice. Stewards and apprentices should also not share living spaces. Governance of a Steward organization is not set in stone because anyone who can provide for a community and not receive anything in return is a Steward.

Undoubtedly, different lineages of Stewardship will have different precepts, philosophies and cultures. Lineages should express their relationships either through public alliances or by No Go declarations. No Go declarations are formal expressions of disagreement about a particular lineage and how that lineage is incompatible with itself. These are not done for the sake of conflict but to formally delineate from other lineages. (*I am open to another term besides No Go*)

What is a Steward responsible for providing?

A Steward should not necessarily provide directly for their community but rather their job is to provide the infrastructure that provides for the community. In some cases, this just isn't possible, but that is the goal.

The distinction being made here can be illustrated in the example of food. Now, a Steward could simply buy food at the grocery store or buy gift cards for a grocery store and give these to their residents. This is providing for their community but they aren't providing the infrastructure to provide for the community. A better way of going about it is to grow the food and/or manufacture this raw food into something else.

A Steward is responsible for all of the infrastructural needs of their community. This infrastructural distinction is very important. Stewards do not provide human comfort. That is outside of the scope of stewards and could possibly lead to conflicts of interest that a Steward should not engage in. The only time that a Steward will attempt to provide any type of human comfort is when a resident requires a momentary, platonic comfort in a moment of panic or grief where that resident's life may be at stake. I cannot emphasize how important the words momentary and platonic are in this context, and only in the context of the resident's life being at stake. They are paramount.

This is an early version of the document but eventually, a formal declaration of the order of importance for infrastructure will need to be laid out so that future stewards can prioritize which infrastructure is most important.

How are Stewards able to provide for their residents?

- A Steward consumes only that which they are able to provide or are given by other Stewards.

Automation is an essential tenet of Stewardship. It is one of the main reasons why Stewardship can now scale. In the process of providing for their community, a Steward may find themselves on the precipice of a business opportunity. Not in doing business with their community which is forbidden but to the larger public.

An example would be, a steward buys 10 acres of farmland to grow food for their community. Their community only requires one acre of farmland in order to sustain itself. The steward would then sell the remaining product harvested from to increase the Stewardship organization's funding which will ultimately help their community.