

FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

People distanced from Christ often mention that one of the reasons that they are turned off to organized religion is that they feel like they are always asking for money (40%). This may or may not be the same thing as talking about money. We will find ways to talk about money with those on the “inside” and minimize requesting money when outsiders are present.

Our financial plan is a guideline for what we believe we should do in a given year. It is ministry driven, not based on money given. We operate by faith, believing that if God is leading us to do something, then He will provide the necessary funds. A plan that does not stretch us is probably not the right plan.

We believe in a combined, general plan rather than designated giving. It avoids pet-projects, and is easier to communicate to the Body. It allows us to live our priorities. It also minimizes the number of times we go to the Body for money.

We believe our building expenses should be no higher than 20% of our budget.

With regard to missions, we feel it is best to support a few at a high percentage of their support, rather than many at a lower level of their support. Any given year’s Mission’s budget is 10% of last year’s giving.

We think it wise to save for the future, and to have on hand 1-2 months cash reserve.

In the event of financial shortfall, we will fund our obligations in the following manner:

Outsiders get paid first (good reputation)

Missionaries get paid next

Staff are paid last, proportionately reduced

We believe there are significant and gifted people in the Body to lead us in the area of money management and utilization, and that final authority for financial matters rests with the elders and this financial task force. So that our staff and missionaries are free to minister and not worry about finances, we will be as generous as possible. We also believe them to be worthy of double honor. We attempt to pay our staff commensurate with similar pay in the local professional workforce. All salaries will be determined by the FTF and the non-staff elders.

Timely and accurate information should be available to the Body. Salaries should be discussed privately and with discretion. Annual giving statements will be available. Audits should be done periodically to give confidence to the Body that we are handling God’s money in an acceptable fashion. It is our policy for the person signing the checks to be different from the one doing the bookkeeping.