

## Description of Church Funds

*Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. .... Give generously according to your true capacity. D&C 163:9*

In response to this recent instruction in the Doctrine and Covenants, some persons are asking “how much shall I give? Where shall I make my financial contributions? And what are the various funds used for?” At the beginning of a new year is a good time to review our level of giving to mission tithes and in this article we will provide some information and suggestions which may help to answer these questions.

In an example in *My Tithing Plan*, a resource provided by the church to help determine the amount we give and ways to allocate that amount, the greater portion (65%) of total giving is allocated equally between congregation ministries and world ministries mission tithes and the balance allocated to various other local and world funds and community organisations.

Whether our true capacity for giving is 5%, 10% or 15% of income or the sacrificial gift of the “widow’s mite”, an important stewardship consideration is the allocation of our gift to various church funds and other organisations. The following descriptions are provided for our assistance.

The greater proportion of mission tithes is split equally between congregational ministries and world ministries.

**Congregation ministries** is used for the costs of operating the local congregation including its building, activities and outreach programmes.

**World ministries** funds the operating budget of Community of Christ world wide including salaries and expenses for world church ministers in the British Isles and around the world; establishing the church in new places and operating the world service corps programme.

Other local funds:

In addition to its operating fund, our congregations may have a **Building fund, Organ fund** or **other Special funds** to which we may contribute. There are also a number of local mission centre funds:

**Mission Centre Ministries** is the operating fund of the mission centre providing support for missionary outreach, leadership development, adult and youth ministries; office costs for mission centre office and employed ministers; salaries for the admin assistant and bookkeeper; and programme costs for implementation of the Mission Centre Action Plan. Offerings are received at mission centre events for Mission Centre Ministries and contributions can be made through your weekly offering envelope.

**New Field Minister Support** contributions are used to fund the employment by the mission centre of Jenny Goodier, a World Church Minister with primary responsibility for children and youth ministries.

**Project Support fund** contributions enable the mission centre to make grants towards projects of ministry initiated by individuals, congregations or the mission centre for the purpose of furthering the mission of the church in the British Isles.

**Youth Ministries fund** contributions provide subsidies and support for the British Isles youth camping programme and other ministries and activities for youth from the British Isles including their participation in the World Church International Youth Forum and other international events sponsored by the Church.

**Reunion Subsidies fund** receives contributions through an offering at Reunion and contributions throughout the year to provide subsidies for persons attending the British Isles Reunion.

**International Youth Forum fund** provides assistance to young people from the British Isles in meeting the cost of attending the International Youth Forum which is held every four years at the Community of Christ Temple in Independence, USA.

**Children's Holiday Camps fund** contributions are used to provide holidays for the benefit of needy children from communities where the church in the British Isles is giving ministry.

**Peacemobile UK** is a charity established by the church to advance the education of children by promoting methods of resolving conflict and educating young people on issues concerning peace. It currently has four travelling interactive peace museums providing peace education focusing on peace for me, peace for us, peace for everyone and peace for the planet. One of the sets of Peacemobile exhibits is currently located at Dunfield House.

**The Dunfield Charity** owns and operates Dunfield House, a spiritual home for many members and friends of Community of Christ, and the venue for its youth camps, retreats, and reunions. Contributions can be made to special appeals such as the Stables redevelopment or to the general operations of Dunfield.

Other World funds:

The World Church **Oblation fund** contributions provide temporary assistance with food, shelter, clothing, transport and other necessary living expenses for church members and others to whom the church is providing ministry. Tangible Love grants (about 20%) encourage collaborative outreach ministry in the community and disaster relief is offered worldwide as humanitarian needs are recognised. An oblation offering is received at every communion service.

**World Hunger fund** provides support for specific hunger focused projects which come from congregations, Outreach International, and World Accord. Projects include village marketing cooperatives, sustainable farming practices and pure water sources. Disaster relief is offered worldwide as hunger related needs occur. Communion service offerings are designated for World Hunger once each quarter.

Other **Designated and Special Offerings** are announced from time to time. These have included Roofs over Africa, Words for the World (translation costs), and Places of Peace (church buildings in Russia and Ukraine).

**Outreach International** is the church sponsored aid agency which is the charity of choice for contributions by many members and friends of Community of Christ. Outreach International works in villages and communities around the world to break the cycle of poverty through sustainable solutions to life-threatening challenges like hunger and access to health care, education and clean water.

As we review the level of our giving and commit to responding to God's generosity by giving according to our true capacity, we are invited to give prayerful consideration to which funds we feel called to support and the amount which we contribute to each of them.

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