



Community of Christ

BRITISH ISLES

Giving Opportunities - What Funds Can I Give To?

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

Your response to this scripture may well be to ask, “How much shall I give and to what funds should I make my financial contributions?” The main purpose of this article is to provide some information and suggestions which may help to answer the second part of this question. In addition, it provides some information about the various ways in which you can give.

The three sections of this article are:

1. Description of Church Funds
2. Ways to Give
3. Wills and Bequests

1. Description of Church Funds

The current recommendation is that the greater proportion of the mission tithes you give are 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 worldwide. This includes salaries and expenses for world church ministers in the British Isles and around the world and supports in many different nations.

Other local funds:

In addition to its operating fund, our congregations may have a **Building 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; mission centre office costs including the employment of the finance officer assistant; volunteer ministry expenses and programme costs for the implementation of mission plans.

Congregation Support Minister contributions are used to fund the employment by the mission centre of Sally Leitch, who is employed to support ministry in congregations and who also coordinates 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 children and youth from the British Isles including their participation in the World Church International Youth Forum and other international events sponsored by the Church.

Mission Centre Events Subsidies fund receives contributions through an offering at Summer Camp, a contribution from the mission centre budget and contributions throughout the year to provide subsidies for persons attending British Isles Mission Centre events.

Mission Centre Endowment fund has been created to receive donations and bequests to support the mission and objects of the mission centre.

Children's Holiday Camps fund contributions are used to provide holidays for families who will benefit from spending quality time together in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment.

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.

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 and retreats. Contributions can be made to the general operations of Dunfield or to the appeal that is made most years for a particular project. Contributions and bequests may also be made to the **Dunfield Endowment fund** which has been created to support the mission and purposes of the Dunfield Charity.

Other World funds:

Abolish Poverty, End Suffering funds are used to serve the poor and hungry, and to stop conditions that diminish the worth of persons. Some of these contributions go to the World Church **Oblation fund** which provides temporary assistance with food, shelter, clothing, transport and other necessary living expenses for church members and others to whom the church is providing ministry. Contributions to Abolish Poverty, End Suffering also support the **World Hunger fund** which provides support for specific hunger focused projects. An Abolish Poverty, End Suffering offering is received at every communion service.

Bridge of Hope funds seek to strengthen into the future the financial health of the worldwide church by, firstly, funding the church's retirement responsibility and then strengthening endowments.

Outreach International is the aid 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.

2. Ways to Give

Offering Envelopes may be used to make regular gifts to the above funds. Offering envelopes can be obtained from your congregation financial officer.

Lump Sum Gifts - Send a cheque made out to 'Community of Christ' to the Mission Centre office and include a note of what fund or funds it is to go towards. Alternatively, make a direct bank transfer to the Mission Centre bank account, put your name in the reference and email Andrew Fox with details of your gift.

Monthly Standing Order - Set up a standing order to your congregation's bank account or to the Mission Centre bank account. Email your congregation's financial officer or Andrew Fox with details of the monthly amount and when the first payment will be received.

Website - Use the 'give' option on the church website, www.cofchrist.org.uk.

Gift Aid - If you pay tax and have completed a gift aid form, tax may be reclaimed, in the form of gift aid, on donations you make to any of the above funds. If you have not already completed a gift aid form, please request one from your congregation finance officer or from Andrew Fox and return a completed form to them.

For details of the **Mission Centre Bank Account** contact Andrew Fox.

3. Wills and Bequests

Many of us would like to give more to our church but find it difficult in today's financial environment. There are many demands on our finances and the support we are already giving is very much appreciated and valued.

But there is a way to increase our support without adversely affecting our finances - by means of a bequest in our Wills. Bequests are gifts we make after death, but we need a Will to make this possible. A Will is a written document authorising one or more people to carry out our wishes as to what should be done with our money and assets on our deaths. It is a method of ensuring that our assets go to the people or organisations that we want to benefit. If we don't have a Will, the law will determine who gets our assets and that might be to people we don't want to benefit. When considering this it is important to ensure that our next of kin are provided for first but Wills also often leave gifts to charities, such as the Church, as well.

Research has shown over many years the majority of people don't have Wills even though they are needed. If you have any assets you should have a Will to ensure they are inherited as you wish. Also, if you have minor or aged dependants, a Will can also be useful in providing who should care for them in the event of your untimely death. Making a Will is not as difficult or traumatic as it may seem.

It's a big subject but by making a Will you are taking charge of who should get what. Whilst we would hope that you will consider benefitting the church in your Will, this article is not suggesting anyone is not giving enough; it is only indicating possibilities for your consideration and, providing a reminder that an up-to-date Will might save your next of kin a lot of time and money.

If you have any questions about topics covered in this article or require more information, please contact us.

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