

UNDERSTANDING # 4: TWO-PERCENT FUND

At the congregational members' meeting in April, 1991, we agreed to accept the following proposal, with the understanding that as part of our 1992 budget planning we will review how the 40-40-20 division mentioned in point 2 is actually working out.

We agreed:

1. That we affirm our expectation of giving more than the Biblical tithe, not as charity, but as restitution.
 - a. That we should regularly remind ourselves why we do this (through teachings on stewardship, international/local needs, Jubilee, through explanations or our two baskets, etc.)
 - b. That we should keep the symbolism of separate baskets on the first Sunday of each month.
2. That the two 1% funds be incorporated into one fund, of which at least 40% is to be used for needs in the 2/3rds world and 40% for local needs, defining these needs as we have in the past. The remainder may be used for needs which also fit the spirit of restitutional giving, but which don't necessarily fit in the past categories of local or 2/3rds world. The 2% committee will propose a budget at the same time as the regular budget. We will expect a portion of it to be undesignated, for needs that will be brought to the congregation during the year, according to the process in the Guidelines.
3. That we create a single committee to administer the Fund, made up of 4 - 6 people who can provide a balance of expertise in both international and local concerns. They will also be responsible for aiding congregational awareness of where the funds go. Proposed guidelines for this committee are on the back of this sheet.
4. Guidelines for the 2% committee were agreed on at the same time.

April 1991

GUIDELINES FOR TWO PERCENT FUND

The 2% Fund Committee is responsible for disbursing the amounts of the 2% Fund in an appropriate manner and for aiding congregational awareness of what they are doing and why. At least 40% of the Fund is to be used for local needs and 40% for needs in the 2/3rds world. The remainder may be used for needs which fit the spirit of restitutorial giving, but which don't fit neatly in the categories of local or 2/3rds world.

The committee is to be made up of:

- 1 - 2 Finance committee members,
- 1 - 2 people with interest and experience with 2/3rds world needs,
- 1 - 2 people with interest and experience in local needs.

Leader Selection Committee is responsible for appointing committee members.

The 2% Fund committee will submit a budget to the congregation at the same time as the general budget. A good portion of the budget will be for undesignated, emergency needs that arise during the year. These undesignated funds can be disbursed in the following manner:

- Up to \$50 can be disbursed with approval of 2 committee members.
- Up to \$200 can be disbursed with approval of the committee.
- Over \$200, whether in a one-time asking or cumulative over a year, will need to go to the congregation for approval, preferably by Sunday morning announcement as well as the Assemblyline. If a concern for confidentiality makes this difficult, it should go to the Leadership Group.

Our approach to giving locally and to giving to the 2/3rds world have developed in slightly different ways over the years the 1% committees have functioned.

Local:

"Local" means Goshen, or agencies serving all of Elkhart County. For the most part, funds will go to agencies with expertise in prioritizing needs, providing counseling, etc. While not limited to this, the preference is for giving through an Assembly member's contact, either as an individual or through an agency where one works.

2/3rds world:

"2/3rds world" means the developing countries. For the most part, funds will go directly for needy people in the 2/3rds world, to meet emergency needs that are not ordinarily met by development oriented programs. Some funds may also go to agencies such as MCC. Funds are not to be used for Assembly members or other North American personnel working in the 2/3rds world, though we look to them for contacts with specific needs. Funds are also not to be used for foreign students wishing to study in the USA.

The 2% Fund Committee may have a separate checkbook, from which they will disburse their funds. The treasurer will continue to be responsible for collecting and depositing the funds.

April 1991, updated May 2001