

JANUARY, 2010 (Allegheny/Ohio Districts)

CHURCH

(Be sure to include church full name plus the location)

MINISTRY FUNDS ... since you asked.

"What is included in the calculation of Ministry Funds?" "What can legitimately be excluded?" These and other valid questions about the interpretation and application of our National Conference rules commonly arise. As followers of Jesus Christ we share a commitment to conduct our affairs with integrity. As members of the Evangelical Congregational Church we have agreed to honor the guidelines laid down by the actions of National Conference. Local churches should contribute no more or no less to Ministry Funds than the covenant between us requires. The following statements help clarify both the intent and process of the current Ministry Funds system. These comments reflect the most up to date understanding of the Finance Committee on the guidelines.

1. The Ministry Funds approach to funding our joint ministry is an "honor system" assuming honesty and accuracy in our dealings with each other.
2. Churches should consult the written rules of the National Conference Journal (Section 701) when calculating Ministry Funds. Do not rely on informal counsel, anecdotal advice, rumor or outdated information.
3. The starting premise of the system is that ALL local church INCOME is included in the calculation of Ministry Funds.
4. Currently there are three basic categories for the exclusion of income in the calculation of Ministry Funds.
 - a. Funds raised for special construction, renovation, or expansion projects AS DEFINED by the Rules of Conference. Not all building fund efforts qualify for this exemption and the exclusion if for a limited period of time only, not on an ongoing basis.
 - b. Money collected for the following required offerings: Church Planting; Global Giving/Self-Denial; Mother's Day; Student Aid; Home Missions, and Christmas Missionary Offering.
 - c. Money that has been paid as opposed to donated for a specific purpose, where the church is simply acting as an agent to collect and disburse those funds MAY be exempt. Often referred to as "the pass through" or "in or out" provision this exclusion is intended to apply only to transactions for which the payment would not qualify as a charitable gift.
5. Money received by a church for the missions budget or missionary support IS to be included in Ministry Fund Calculations
6. Church payments for pastoral health insurance premiums ARE NOT excluded from the Ministry Funds calculation.

MONEY RECEIVED:

Income (ALL income listed above which includes Sunday School, Missionary Societies, Ladies Aid Societies, Youth groups, Interest, bequests & other sources of income)

(DO NOT include REQUIRED offerings)

Building funds MAY BE exempt ONLY if a project is on file with the NC Office.

MINISTRY FUND CALCULATION = INCOME X 8.70% (AA)

CAMPING MINISTRY (Camp ECCO) = INCOME X 0.15% (BB)

TOTAL MINISTRY FUNDS TO BE REMITTED TO NC CENTER

ADD (AA) and (BB)

(Send this amount)

Include this form and make check payable to: E.C. Church - Ministry Funds

SEND BEFORE FEBRUARY 15, 2010 to

E.C. Church Center - MF
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067-1235

Name of Person & Title completing form

(Please Print)

Phone & E-Mail Address of Person completing form

Any questions, contact the Business Office at: 1-800-866-7581.