



FAIR SHARE POLICY MISSIONARY CHURCH. WESTERN DISTRICT (ADOPTED MAY 1990)

INTRODUCTION

The "Fair Share" method of funding the district ministries is determined on a percentage basis of a church's total receipts as reported on their Annual Statistical Report. Excluded from total receipts are bequests received through an instrument of a will and capital funds. The percentage for calculation is 2%. The exclusion of other items would only necessitate the increase in percentage. It is to be noted that a 2% Fair Share will cover a substantial portion of the district budget. The goal is to continually move closer to funding the district totally from Fair Share income and Capital interest. This goal is achievable as each church shares in the opportunity of giving to our aggressively growing district.

While it is the desire of all our churches to meet their "Fair Share" responsibility, unfortunately there are cases when, for one reason or another, a church does not meet its obligation. Because this does impact district ministries, it is necessary to have the lines of communication open. It is important for district leadership to fully understand the circumstances involved so that appropriate steps can be taken to assist in whatever way necessary.

DETERMINATION OF FAIR SHARE

1. Each church completes and submits the Annual Statistical Report by February 15th each year.
2. Based on these reports, calculations are made: 2 % of total receipts, (excluding capital funds and bequests), rounded off to the nearest dollar. There are times when churches grow rapidly. In the case where a the churches income grows more that 20% in a given year, the Fair Share will be capped at 20%. If rapid growth continues the cap will be 35% for the second year, 50% for the third year, 75 % for the fourth year. The church will then pay the full 2% Fair Share for all subsequent years.
3. Fair Share amounts for the next year will be calculated and sent to each church during the month of August.
4. New Fair Share amounts go into effect the following January.

METHOD OF PAYMENT/REPORTING

1. Each church should send their Fair Share to the District Office by the 15th of each month.
2. Monthly reports will be sent to each church after the 15th of the month.
3. It is the responsibility of each church to advise the district treasurer/district office of problems related to its Fair Share obligation. In cases when the church is delinquent without explanation for two or more months, the district superintendent or district treasurer will initiate communication with that church.

CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-PAYMENT

To compile a complete list of acceptable reasons for a church's deficiency is not possible. Therefore, each case will be considered on its own merits. There will probably be two basic scenarios:

1. Unable to meet obligations

The church that is genuinely unable to meet their Fair Share contribution, due to some catastrophic situation, will be granted relief under provisions established by the District Executive Board. Requests for special consideration must be submitted in writing to the District Executive Board.

2. Unwilling to meet obligations

The delinquent church that could meet their Fair Share responsibility but chooses not to do so creates a sensitive problem, as the root of this problem is not one of hardship but one of attitude, cooperation and loyalty. God honors those who keep their commitments and who keep their integrity intact by doing what they have said they will do.

In such a case, the District Executive Board will study all aspects of the situation and request a meeting with the local church leadership to discuss the situation and to enter a time of prayer and communication. Hopefully, a satisfactory resolution of the problem would occur at this time. However, if no solution can be reached, the District Executive Board has the authority to discipline the non-compliant church. Such action could include but would not be limited to:

- A. The church body is informed of the situation and possible consequences.
- B. Removal of District Conference privileges.
- C. Calling for the immediate payment of any notes or loans directly from the district or cosigned with the denominational investment foundation.
- D. Recommend to the Missionary Church the suspension of the church's affiliation with the Missionary Church Western District and the Missionary Church, Inc.

AVENUE FOR APPEAL

Hopefully a situation such as this would not occur. However, if requested, the following shall be the process:

1. An appeal committee of five persons, accountable to the District Conference, will be appointed by the District Executive Board to hear the appeal.
2. This committee would consist of pastors and key lay people.
3. The appeal committee would review all pertinent data and have authority to endorse, revise, or rescind the discipline imposed by the District Executive Board.