

Missionary Families of Christ

STEWARDSHIP OF FUNDS

The work of MFC is funded through the tithes and contributions of members. All money given to MFC belongs to the Lord and is managed for Him by MFC in order to further His work. MFC in turn is one community throughout the world. As such, stewardship over all money given to MFC is entrusted to the community as represented by its overall leadership.

There are different levels of “overall” leadership. The first and highest level is the Servant General, who is steward for *all* money given to MFC *throughout the world*. A second level is the highest leadership in a particular country, which is the Servant Council (headed by the Country Servant), which acts as steward for all money given to MFC in that particular country. A third level is the highest leadership in a particular area (i.e., province, state, or other political subdivision of a country), which is the Area Council (headed by the Area Servant), which acts as steward for all money given by members to MFC in that particular area.

One fund system

MFC uses a “one fund” system in handling the Lord’s money. Its most basic meaning is that all the money of MFC throughout the world is one fund. This is simply consistent with the reality that MFC is one community worldwide, united by the one vision, mission and culture, doing the one work of the Lord, and under one overall leadership with its center in the Philippines under the Servant General.

However, for practical and pastoral reasons, the funds of different MFC groups throughout the world are handled separately. Thus the one-fund system is applied on a localized basis.

Internationally, one fund would normally refer to all the money of MFC within a particular country, or in the case of certain countries (where the different area groups have not yet been “unified”), to all the money of MFC within a particular area. Thus the different MFC country groups (or in some cases the different MFC area groups) would handle their money “independently” of each other. The national leadership (or in some cases the area leadership) would determine how to use MFC funds.

Within a particular country, all the money of MFC is considered one fund, under the stewardship of the national leadership under the Servant Council. However, the funds of different areas (e.g., provinces, states) are normally handled “independently” of each other. The area leadership under the Area Council would determine how to use MFC funds, and would report to the national leadership and have their financial accounts integrated with the national accounts. However, the national leadership, in exercising its overall stewardship, may direct the local areas on how to use MFC funds.

Within a particular area, all the money contributed by members is given, as a general rule, to the one central fund. No chapter, which is the pastoral subdivision of the larger MFC community, should maintain its own funds. It is the overall area leadership that determines how funds are used. All chapters remit collections, and in turn look to the central fund to provide for the money needed

for official activities. This ensures that we pursue the interest and priorities of the whole MFC rather than just that of some chapters.

The one-fund system also means that the different MFC Sections do not maintain their own funds, but rather give in their contributions to the MFC central fund and draw expenses from there.

Chapter funds

Now the above is the general rule. However, it would be impractical for every chapter to go to the central fund for every expense, no matter how small. Furthermore, there could be some chapter activities that the chapter leadership would find beneficial for members, but which are not essential to our life and mission and so would not be funded by MFC.

Thus, it is possible (though not necessary) for a chapter to maintain some money under chapter stewardship, for the following purposes:

1. For petty cash expenses.
2. For certain chapter activities not mandated by the overall leadership and thus not correspondingly funded (e.g., chapter socials).
3. For financial needs of chapter members.

For the above, a chapter can have the following funding sources:

1. Collections during Mass (less stipend to the priest).
2. Discount on official Signs & Wonders novelty items sold by the chapter.
3. Commissions given as incentive for certain activities (e.g., solicitation of ads for anniversary souvenir programs).
4. Fundraising within the chapter for specific purposes (e.g., youth sell food to generate funds for Youth Camp).
5. Direct contributions to the chapter fund by chapter members.

Regarding contributions by members to the chapter fund, the following principles are to be observed:

1. Such contributions should ideally be over and above one's tithes (A "tithe" by definition is 10% of one's income). Thus a chapter member should not deprive the central fund of his contribution in order to give to the chapter fund.
2. Such contributions should not be given or solicited on a regular basis if there is no current need.
3. The chapter should not solicit funds if it already has more than enough on hand to meet the current need.
4. The chapter should not keep a sizeable amount in its chapter fund, beyond its reasonable and foreseen needs for the near future, and should turn over any excess to the central fund.
5. At the end of the fiscal year, prior to a major reorganization where new chapters are set up, any remaining chapter funds should be turned over to the central fund (this prevents any disagreement on how to allocate funds to old and new chapters).

Areas may also have an area fund per the above guidelines.

Funding for formation

MFC does not generally charge any fee for its formation courses, which are given free for all members. Even charges for Marriage Enrichment Retreats (MER) are not income for MFC but are intended to cover costs involved (venue and food). No MFC member is to be deprived of attendance at any formation course due to lack of money to pay the fees involved. How then do we handle the situation of members not able to afford fees for certain formation courses (e.g., MER)?

Following is the suggested progression:

1. The chapter should strive to pay such fees from its chapter fund.
2. If not sufficient, the chapter may solicit contributions from its members for this particular purpose.
3. If still lacking, the chapter may approach the area leadership for assistance in soliciting contributions from area members (including other chapters).
4. Finally, the chapter may approach the area leadership for subsidy from the central fund. This should only be resorted to after exhausting possibilities from the first three.

For those who cannot afford to pay, it is a good idea for the chapter to work out a scheme whereby they repay the amount subsidized by installment, to the extent that they can afford without overburdening them. Such installment payments go to the chapter fund.

(SG. Oct 7, 2019)