

Title: Report of the Mission Fund Task Force

Origin: Mission Funding Task Force

Since the 2007 General Board, the Mission Funding Task Force has met twice and conducted additional business via conference call and e-mail. At our November 2007 meeting, the taskforce decided to create a clear and concise document that accurately describes our current mission allocation system and the interpretation / development process. It was clear to the task force that not only was there little energy and interest in creating a new system, but that the data shows that each shift in the Mission's Funding/Allocation System resulted in a \$1 million dollar loss in giving to DMF. Concurrently, during the \$4 million decrease in giving from 2002 to 2006, there was little information, publication or promotion to encourage giving to DMF. What the task force felt we needed was a clear and consolidated document and a concerted effort to promote and interpret DMF to the churches.

Marshall Dunn agreed to take the 2003 Plan and the 2007 plan and highlight the discrepancies and inconsistencies. The MFTF then met in person and via conference call to work through these issues. As a result, we present for approval by the general board a new appendix to the 2007 Mission Funding System. The appendix recommendations deal specifically with the allocation issue.

Two factors contribute significantly to the promotion and interpretation of DMF: the stabilized funding of OGMP and the CFC merger. Funding OGMP off the base of DMF has provided funds to create the Associate General Minister and Vice President's position. The CFC merger provides resources that OGMP is directing toward promotion and interpretation. The task force provided OGMP staff with insight, suggestions, and affirmation of the DMF development approach.

The promotion and interpretation of DMF includes:

- Rebuilding relationships with the Top 100 DMF congregations by:
 - Visits from the AGMVP to listen, gather information, data, and names
 - Strategic development letters
 - Coordinated visits by the General Ministry Presidents on behalf of DMF (as opposed to visiting from their ministry)
 - Continual monitoring of the giving, acknowledgement, and recognition
- Rebuilding relationships with the top 101-250 DMF Congregations by:

- Specifically nurturing relationships with these congregations through Arlene Pimentel, Director of DMF
- Acknowledge their congregations giving
- Improving DMF overall by:
 - Reframing the way in which we acknowledge, request, and monitor congregational giving thru letters, giving societies, and directed requests
 - Telling the story of unified promotions and the 100 years of history, development and the commitments we made along the way
 - Gathering regional specific data for promotional materials
 - Sharing information by telling the story of DMF thru letters, videos, Power Point presentations, and other new media
 - Giving Societies:
 - Centennial Society for those churches giving 10% or more of their operating budget to DMF
 - CO Hawley Society for those churches giving 15% or more
 - Spencer Austin Society for those churches giving 20% or more
 - Using specific development approaches for institutional fund raising and recognizing that DMF is an annual fund that requires specific development strategies

Appendix to the 2007 Mission Funding System

1. The contributions to Disciples Mission Fund are distributed according to portions approved by the General Board. Portions for the Office of the General Minister and President, the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, and the North American Pacific Asian Disciples are set percentages distributed from the whole fund. The remaining fund is divided into portions for the regional, general, and higher education ministries according to the general board approved distribution with a proportional goal of 50-40-10 (regions/general/higher education). The distribution percentages established by the General Board are as follows: (from 07 appendix)

a. OGMP	6.2377%
b. CPOHM	0.4919%
c. NAPAD	0.4919%
d. Regions	45.9857%
e. General	36.7885%
f. Higher Education	9.1972%
g. ICWF Blessing Boxes	0.8070%

2. The MFTF recommends that any discussions regarding changes by a Region in the General Board's allocation would involve clergy, laity, and a representative from the Office of the General Minister and President. (03)

3. Any region setting an allocation percentage other than that of the General Board is encouraged to have this action ratified by its Regional Assembly. (new 08)
4. Changes to the General Board approved allocation by a Region are valid for two years. After two years OGMP Treasury services will return the region to their General Board allocation, unless otherwise informed by the region. (new 08)
5. A region may not change the allocations of other organizations. For example a region may not choose to designate funds from a general ministry to another region. (new 08)
6. Each General Ministry, Regional Ministry, and Racial/Ethnic Ministry shall consult with colleagues of similar ministry settings to establish the criteria for measuring performance and outcomes in light of the church's mission. Each General Ministry, Regional Ministry, and Racial/Ethnic Ministry shall report the criteria and outcomes to the General Board. Higher Education institutions report through Higher Education and Leadership Ministries. (redefined from 03)
7. Each DMF recipient is encouraged to develop an annual fundraising plan, while continuing to work with partners in developing the common fund of the church. Recipients are encouraged to work with our church partners with experience in fund raising and development. (redefined 03)
8. Congregational designation will continue to be honored. (from 07 Appendix)

Appendix II – Interpretation and Receipt/Distribution System

1. The MFTF recommends that any discussions regarding changes by a recipient organization in the General Board's interpretation and receipting/distribution process would involve clergy, laity, and a representative from the Office of the General Minister and President. (new 08)
2. Any organization making a change in the General Board's interpretation and receipting/distribution process is encouraged to have this action ratified by its assembly. (new 08)

Recommended Action:

That the appendixes be approved.