

**Congregational
Federation in
Scotland**

Federation Finance

THE BUDGET

As with any organisation, the Federation, both nationally and locally, produces a budget for the coming year.

Nationally, each of three committees devises a budget for their work and submits it to the Council where it is fine tuned and various adjustments made. The consolidated budget is then put to the Autumn Assembly for discussion, modification and approval before it becomes the financial guide for the coming year.

In Scotland, the budget for the Area is produced by the Finance Committee and the resulting cost spread among the Scottish membership to arrive at a per member affiliation fee which is discussed and approved by the Scottish Churches at the Autumn Conference.

THE PROBLEMS

Yes! There are problems - usually in connection with cash flow or more correctly, the lack of it. Commitments have to be made, usually before the income from Churches has arrived. This usually means that reserves have to be drawn on in the hope that the income, when it comes, will be enough to replenish the "internal borrowing"

AFFILIATION FEES

Because of the way in which the Federation has been set up, the English and Welsh areas are funded from the income from investments which formed part of their settlement when they split with the Congregationalists who went into the URC. In Scotland, we received no such settlement and the Scottish area is funded by its constituent churches. This has meant that the affiliation fee structure between the two set ups has been different.

There are therefore two levels of affiliation fee :

1. Individual Churches throughout the UK are affiliated to the Congregational Federation through payment of a fee of £ 85 per Church and *£3 per member per annum(2005). This money is sent direct to Nottingham by each Church.
2. Churches in England & Wales are asked to contribute a further £ 7 per member to the Federation for the work of Ministry & Mission.

Churches in Scotland contribute to the work of the Scottish Area by means of a contribution of £ 7.00 per member per annum. This money is sent to the Treasurer of the Scottish Area by each Church.

Churches, both north and south of the border, are also encouraged to make donations to CWM for missionary work and such donations should be sent to the appropriate area treasurer.

WHAT THEN HAPPENS TO THE MONEY ?

Nationally the Federation has expenses in the form of staff wages, administrative costs, publications, training programmes, Youth & Childrens' work and Church Extension. However, the affiliation fee does not cover the cost of this work in full. It has therefore been necessary for the Federation to rely on the income from various Trusts and Investments to make ends meet.

In Scotland, £ 3 of the affiliation fee together with money collected for CWM goes to the Ministry & Mission Fund. The remainder is used to cover the administrative costs of running the area, providing loans to Churches or assisting with grant aid for the maintenance of the ministry in Scotland. Some is used to defray the cost of travel in order that all may participate in the activities.

MINISTRY & MISSION FUND

This Fund is an amalgamation of the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund, The Home Churches Fund and the World Mission Fund. Ministry and Mission go very much hand in hand and the Fund has been structured with this in mind. It takes account of the fact that as a member denomination of CWM, the Federation is very much in partnership with the other 31 denominations and as such is just as entitled to receive from CWM as to give.

In Scotland, we support the work of this fund from an element of the affiliation fee and CWM contributions. In addition, part of the Scottish Area Affiliation Fee is already being used for work in Scotland which would otherwise be the subject of requests for funding to this Fund.

It is important to realise that CWM contributions should be sent to the Area Treasurer and not direct to Nottingham or to CWM. Cheques should be made payable to : "The Congregational Federation in Scotland"

Monies which are received in this way will be remitted en bloc to Nottingham quarterly.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Whilst none of what is contained in this pamphlet is mandatory on Churches, it is to be hoped that members will feel able to contribute to the work of the Federation through the affiliation fees and CWM contributions.

Sadly, you may be left with the impression that the Federation in its work and mission is ONLY concerned with money. Nothing could be further from the truth. That having been said, the work cannot go on without your financial support. There are many demands being made on Church finances these days and we do thank those churches who manage to contribute to the work. Our future is bound up in outreach and mission but it is a fact of life that these things cost money.