

The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is charged with the responsibility of preparing the Church Operating Budget. Then after the Church Board and the Church in Business Session vote to authorize the Budget the Finance Committee must implement the Budget.

The best method for financing a church program is to group all its expenses into a Church Operating Budget. This will: (1) free the worship service from repeated calls for money, (2) control spending, and (3) provide the members with a convenient method for distributing the offerings they have already given to God through planned giving.

Make-up of the Finance Committee

The success of the church financial program is in great measure tied to the choice of qualified personnel for the Finance Committee. The following guide should be used in their selection.

- Dedication to the work of the church
- Good business ability
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- Of high regard and influence among the church members

The size of the committee is determined by the size of the congregation. But it should be relatively small — three to nine members. Too large a committee will make it unwieldy. The pastor and the Church Treasurer are always ex officio members. The local church stewardship director should also be a member so he or she can provide the stewardship education to the congregation with a knowledge of the needs of the church and abilities of the members.

Term of Office

If the Finance Committee is functioning well, it should not be necessary nor advisable to change it each year. Experience can be a valuable aid. If it is deemed necessary to make changes in this committee, it should be done by changing only one or two members in a given year, so the committee will always have “hold over” members who are not only well acquainted with the business and operation of the church, but also are informed about past problems and decisions.

The Finance Committee is chosen by the church nominating committee and elected by the church in the same manner as other church officers. The chairman of the Finance Committee should be chosen by the Church Board after careful study as to which member of the Finance Committee is best qualified as a leader.

Responsibilities

In order of the Finance Committee to operate smoothly and efficiently, all financial matters of the church must be placed and left in the hands of this committee. Each year the committee will:

1. Solicit, collect, and study the estimated or asking budgets from each of the local church departments.
2. With these departmental requests in mind the committee will prepare a suggested budget within the limits of the church's potential and present this to the Church Board for approval.
3. Present the budget to the Church in Business Session for final approval.
4. Implement the budget as the financial plan of the church under authorization of these two bodies, by contacting each member of the church for financial support. (A detailed outline of the every-member-canvass can be found in "Biblical Principles for Giving and Living," by Mel Rees, pp. 87-98. The book is available through *AdventSource* in Lincoln, NE.)
5. Monitor the church finances throughout the year, taking whatever steps are necessary to insure the house of God is in order.