

FINANCIAL GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Indebtedness

Due to the fact that all those appointed, assigned, and in training have extremely limited budgets, we feel it has become necessary to seriously consider the financial debts of all applicants.

Those who apply for appointment or assignment should not be overly indebted. Said debts should be reasonable so as not to unduly encumber the applicant through excessive repayment schedules, thereby causing them undue hardship and financial stress. The maximum is \$250 per month for Missionary Associates and \$350 per month for appointed missionaries, exclusive of house and auto payments.

Should an applicant be overly indebted and someone else would offer to repay some of the debts for them, consideration will be given to that arrangement. However, we would require a notarized statement from the person assuming repayment of the debt. Also, they would need to be aware that they would not receive giving credit for such a benevolent act.

Bankruptcy

The 1987 General Presbytery requested the Executive Presbyter to take under advisement the matter of establishing a uniform policy or guidelines for dealing with ministers involved in bankruptcies. The Executive Presbytery appointed a committee to study this matter and report back to this meeting of the General Presbytery. The committee offers the following guidelines for districts to use when dealing with ministries involved in bankruptcy:

Any form of bankruptcy or other procedure resulting in the avoidance of lawful debts is inconsistent with scriptural standards of ministry. Ministers are to lead a "blameless" Christian life and "have a good report of them which are without." Perhaps most importantly, bankruptcy often brings reproach upon the cause of Christ. However, in some forms of bankruptcy, a debtor can reaffirm and pay all of his debts. Further, a debtor is free to voluntarily pay debts that have been discharged in bankruptcy. There may be causes in which extenuating circumstances warrant a decision based on mercy.

Social Security

The 1998 World Missions Board adopted the following policy regarding missionaries who have opted out of Social Security by signing the IRS Form 4361:

Missionaries who previously exempted themselves from Social Security will be required to reenter the program if Congress provides such an option.