

September 2017

ICOC 3.0 Finances Task Force Options



Preface

Depending upon the decisions about future direction reached in Chicago, **IF** there is interest in establishing means for collective funding to address some needs, then the following recommendations are offered as **options to consider** in order to implement those decisions.

Everything presented should be viewed from that understanding.

Background

- As reported in the global discussion results, 78% of participants answered “Yes” to the question: “Do you believe that if given a clear explanation, and time for implementation, that churches in your part of the fellowship would be **open** to supporting “brotherhood efforts”? *(emphasis added to highlight a willingness to consider)*
- We have experience using collective financing for HOPE worldwide, Disciples Today, ICOC Hot News, and the recently established ICOC Events non-profit.



I Corinthians 16:1-4—Funds collected for a purpose beyond a local ministry

Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.



2 Corinthians 8:16-24—Attention paid to the administration and accountability of funds

Thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you. For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative. And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel. What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.

In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you. As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ. Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.



Finances Task Force Proposed Options

In light of a possible desire among leaders to consider supporting “brotherhood efforts” and because other Task Forces are identifying financial needs in their areas, the Finances Task Force proposes the following options:

- **OPTION A:** To establish a Unity Entity to oversee funds for brotherhood needs.
- **OPTION B:** Brotherhood needs would be handled without global funding or coordination. A range of alternative solutions could be found. For example, current solicitation of individual churches to meet needs could continue, or regional families of churches could coordinate funding in their own regions, if desired.



Oversight & Accountability of the Unity Entity *(if this is the consensus in Chicago)*

BOARD SELECTION OPTION A:

DIVERSE REPRESENTATION—nomination from these groups (or their future equivalents):

- One (1) Director nominated by the Administration Service Team
- One half (1/2) of remaining Directors nominated by the Elders & Evangelists Service Teams (3 or 4 directors, depending upon the size of the board)
- One half (1/2) of remaining Directors nominated by the Regional Chairmen (3 or 4 directors, depending upon the size of the board)
- With the goal that at least two (2) of the Directors be from outside of the Service Teams (or their equivalents)



Oversight & Accountability of the Unity Entity *(if this is the consensus in Chicago)*

BOARD SELECTION OPTION B:

PRIMARILY REGIONAL FAMILY REPRESENTATION—nomination from these groups (or their future equivalents):

- One (1) Director nominated by the Administration Service Team
- One (1) or two (2) Directors nominated by Elders & Evangelists Service Teams
- All of the remaining Directors nominated by the Regional Chairmen
- With the goal that no more than two (2) of the Directors be from the same continent



Task Force Recommendations for Board *(if creating Entity is the consensus in Chicago)*

- Optimal number for Board members is 7-9 people.
- Board will select its own chairperson.
- Board members would serve two-year terms, for a maximum of two terms. Members rotate off board, preserving experience but providing fresh perspectives.
- Board may appoint officer(s) to manage the Entity who are not members of the Board (e.g., an administrative secretary/treasurer).
- Procedures and guidelines should be adopted to expedite fund disbursements within proper limits (i.e., limits of authority on how much can be disbursed upon what level of approval).



2 Corinthians 8:1-7—Bible praises non-local giving and giving out of poverty. All churches should be given the opportunity to contribute, but done on a completely voluntary basis.

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.



2 Corinthians 9:1-5—making financial commitments in advance and preparing administratively for such collections

There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.



Task Force Recommendations for Sources of Funds *(if creating Entity is the consensus in Chicago)*

Funding would be requested through an APPEAL prefaced with a presentation of the needs, with flexible options for collection:

1. Participation would be voluntary. Each church could participate or decline based on their individual decisions.
2. An annual projected need could be estimated and a targeted "Ask" be suggested based on the approximate membership or budgets of the churches in the "developed" world. The Ask might be a per-member amount or based on a % of the contribution budget.
3. In every situation, churches could elect to contribute more, less or nothing to the Unity Entity. No accountability would be imposed upon the Ask.



Task Force Recommendations for Sources of Funds *(if creating Entity is the consensus in Chicago)*

4. All churches would be encouraged to consider contributing, but only churches in the developed world would be specifically asked to provide a pledge or projected gift. In other words, no church would be discouraged from participating if they desire to do so.
5. Churches could choose to include their pledge within a special missions contribution or collect it in other ways.
6. “Seed money” could be solicited through specific fund-raising requests:
 - Private donors could pledge for first few years with a goal of perhaps \$100K/year (e.g., 100 individuals pledging \$1K/year).
 - Larger churches (1000+ in membership) could pledge an amount (e.g., \$5K) as seed money for the first year.



Task Force Recommendations for Sources of Funds *(if creating Entity is the consensus in Chicago)*

7. Based upon budgets and expenditures of the Entity during its first 3 years, the suggested Ask would be adjusted. There need be no expectation that it would continue to expand in funding beyond what is reasonably needed based on actual experience and practice, so the governing Board (relying on guidance from the collective kingdom leadership) would propose an amount annually for voluntary participation by churches and others.
8. In the same way, there needn't be any expectation that the Entity will disburse all funds received each year. Financial balances should be acceptable and can be carried forward year to year, with the understanding that any annual Ask would be adjusted appropriately based on the balance of current available funds and the estimation of ongoing needs.



The Finances Task Force looks forward to the consensus in Chicago to chart its work for the next several months.

We eagerly await the Holy Spirit's direction among us.

- Connie Beene, New York – Administrator; Administration Service Team
- Tom Briscoe, Dallas – Chairman, Administration Service Team
- Francis Dassé, Abidjan, Ivory Coast – Evangelist
- Bill Hooper, Dallas – Elder; Elders Service Team
- Dan Liu, Hong Kong – Elder; Elders Service Team, *Task Force Chairman*
- Randy McKean, Northern Virginia – Elder/Evangelist; Evangelist Service Team
- Paul Rowden, London – Elder/Administrator; Administration Service Team
- Jerry Sugarman, Los Angeles – Elder; Elders Service Team

