

**THE NEW MEXICO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
PROPOSED STANDING RULES REGARDING TITHE APPORTIONMENTS**

1. Annual Conference Tithes

- Churches will remit a tithe of their ordinary operational income.
- A tithe will be defined as follows:
 - 8% of monthly local church ordinary operational revenue from all sources as described in these rules.
 - An apportioned amount for the Board of Pension and Health Benefits to supply necessary funds for benefits to those in the retired relation and those granted disability leave. This amount will be included with their monthly billing from the BOPHB and will be apportioned to churches proportionally based on their reported operational income (currently line 62 of the annual statistical tables).

2. Monthly Obligations

- On or before the 10th day of each month, each church shall remit to the Annual Conference Treasurer a report of all ordinary operational income from the prior month and a payment of 8% of that amount.
 - The Annual Conference Treasurer shall supply a simple remittance form and instructions for completing it.
- On or before the 10th of the month all local churches will receive a billing from the BOPHB that will include the costs of pension/insurance benefits for their clergy and lay employees enrolled in such programs and their apportioned amount for retiree/incapacity health care. Payment in full is expected by the 20th of the month.

3. Ordinary Operational Income

- Includes: All offerings from members and attendees whether individually identified or not individually identified, both pledged and unpledged income, all rent or building use fees used to support the ordinary operations of the church, any rental income from pastor/associate pastor-unoccupied parsonage(s) less the cost of maintenance, all undesignated interest and dividend income used to support the ordinary operations of the church and all other monies which the Pastor, the Church Treasurer and/or the Church Council (or equivalent) believe constitute the ordinary operational income.
- Excludes: Tuition based income such as fees for church-hosted day care, pass through donations including funds paid by families to cover the cost of camps or field trips, amounts which are to be invested as endowments, amounts used to fund capital campaigns and amounts given in capital campaigns, and such other exclusion as the Pastor, the Church Treasurer and/or the Church Council (or equivalent) conclude to not reflect the ordinary operational income of the church.
- “Capital” as used in this rule means:
 - Fixing a defect or design flaw
 - Creating an addition, physical enlargement or expansion
 - Creating an increase in capacity, productivity or efficiency
 - Rebuilding property after the end of its useful life

- Replacing a major component or structural part of the property
- Adapting property to a new or different use
- The Pastor shall communicate in writing to the Conference Treasurer the substance of any exercise of her or his judgment to include or exclude any income as properly tithed in her or his compliance with the provisions of this rule other than the examples cited herein.

4. Conference budgets

- The Council on Finance and Administration shall recommend to the Annual Conference for its action a budget that reflects projected income and expense. The budget shall balance. The conference-wide projected income from local churches shall not exceed 8% of the total amounts reported by all churches on line 62 of the annual statistical reports recorded in the most recent Conference Journal. The budget may include other projected sources such as earnings on investments.
- The Council on Finance and Administration shall also present to the Annual Conference for its action an amount from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be apportioned to the local churches proportionally based on their reported operational income.

5. Transparency

The Conference Treasurer shall post on the Conference web site at least the following:

- For the most recent completed year:
 - Each church's cumulative annual total of declared ordinary operational income, the amount of operational income reported on line 62 of the statistical tables and the amount remitted to the Annual Conference for its annual budget.
 - Each church's apportioned amount for BOPHB, the amount paid and the cumulative total of any prior year amounts.
- For the most recent completed month: each church's most recent monthly reported ordinary operational income, the amount paid to the Annual Conference for its annual budget and other remittances (such as Special Sunday Offerings and Advance Special Gifts.)

6. Accountability

- The Board of Ordained Ministry shall report to each clergy session, in reply to the examination of character of the clergy, the names of any pastors in charge who failed to supply the annual local church statistical report as required by Discipline ¶340.c.
- The Bishop shall convene a meeting at the site of each Annual Conference Session of all pastors in charge whose churches have paid their full tithes in the previous year. The purpose of the meeting shall be to share challenges and successes in meeting the full payment of tithes, the experience of making the judgment of what monies to tithe and not tithe, the effect of meeting the tithe obligation if and when other colleagues might fail to do so and the extent to which those who fail to pay the tithe properly constitute the accepted mission of churches and members who do.