



May 2015

To: Church Treasurers

Copies to: Synod Moderators, Synod Treasurers, Synod Offices, Synod M&M Treasurers, Finance Committee, Ministries Committee, Stewardship Sub-Committee

Dear Colleague

You may recall that our General Assembly asked for an annual update on the Ministry and Mission (M&M) Fund to be sent to all local churches to stimulate interest, encourage and, most importantly, to say thank you for the committed giving over the past year. The latest such leaflet has now been produced.

Enclosed with this letter are ten copies of the new leaflet, which include some reminders of how the money is spent. Many churches have found the leaflet helpful in communicating the many positive aspects of the M&M Fund and we hope you will distribute this as widely as possible. Further supplies of the leaflet are available free by ringing 020 7916 8644 or by e-mail at [mom.admin@urc.org.uk](mailto:mom.admin@urc.org.uk).

In addition, a version of the leaflet's contents suitable for use in a church magazine can be found on the URC website ([www.urc.org.uk/finance-homepage.html](http://www.urc.org.uk/finance-homepage.html)). Please draw this to the attention of your local magazine editor if appropriate.

I hope that you can use the leaflet and the information in this covering letter to encourage people at your church to be "cheerful givers", as the New Testament puts it. Only through their giving can the ministries described be sustained.

Although it is completely unrelated to this mailing, in order to save postage we have enclosed a document providing information on recent changes to pension legislation which affects all employers; please pass this on to the appropriate person at your church.

## **The 2015 Budget**

The leaflet is always designed to keep the number of figures to a minimum; however I appreciate some treasurers like more facts to back up their own financial presentations. I hope that the following information about this year may be useful. Please feel free to draw on it in presenting this topic to your congregation and in answering their questions.

The central expenditure budget for 2015 is a reduction from the budget in 2014, continuing the trend of recent years.

As ever, much the largest item of expenditure in the central budget is the funding of our stipendiary ministers. The 2012 Assembly affirmed that this is where local churches want the money to be spent. In the table below, Direct Ministry Costs relate to stipends, pension and National Insurance contributions for ministers and Church-Related Community Workers. Ministry-related Costs refer to expenditure on support work without which the various ministries could not be sustained, e.g. training costs and synod moderators. The variety of other work funded centrally, e.g. ecumenical work, international links and central administration costs are bundled together into "Other Costs".

<b>2015</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Cost per Stipendiary Minister</b>	<b>Cost per URC Member</b>
Direct Ministry Costs	£14.9m	£33,900	£256
Ministry-related Costs	£2.6m	£5,800	£44
Other Costs	£2.8m	£6,400	£48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£20.3m</u></b>	<b><u>£46,100</u></b>	<b><u>£348</u></b>

The total budget is £20.3m is a reduction of 1% on 2014. The table shows that the costs related to the ministry work out at just under £40,000 for each stipendiary minister. To sustain this level of ministry and our other programmes we need giving that averages out at around £350 per member this year towards the central budget. This will continue to be gathered predominantly through giving to the M&M Fund.

These figures are of course averages across the United Reformed Church as a whole and so may not reflect the M&M pledge your synod has suggested for your congregation.

Far more detailed figures about the central finances can be found in the published accounts, which are available in the Finance section on the Church website: [www.urch.org.uk](http://www.urch.org.uk). If you want a printed copy please contact the Finance Office.

### **Further Help**

If you have any questions about anything in this letter please do not hesitate to contact Bea Minta at Church House or by e-mail to [mom.admin@urch.org.uk](mailto:mom.admin@urch.org.uk).

Thank you for your valuable service to the Church through offering your time and expertise to help our financial stewardship. It is appreciated.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



**John G Ellis**  
**Treasurer**