



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

Walking the Way  
of Jesus together

## Discipleship and Stewardship: The Responsibility is Ours

### What does God want of us?

**Discipleship** is about recognising and responding to God's presence in every aspect of our lives and, as church members, helping each other to do that. **Mission** is about sharing God's vision of justice and love for all people in the world around us, including our local neighbourhood. **Stewardship** is about recognising that all we have first comes from God, and so we must use all we have in carrying out God's Mission and disciples of Jesus. In considering these important things together, we need to consider the relationship between our Christian living and Christian giving, without reserve, to achieve God's purposes of love.

### What is our role?

- To celebrate God's existing presence at work in our lives, both individually and collectively.
- To understand the impact which our lives, individually and collectively, have on others.
- To build God's vision of justice and joy for all peoples, starting with our own neighbourhood.

## How can the “Holy Habits” of “Gladness & Generosity” and “Sharing Resources” help?



**Holy Habits** by Andrew Roberts and the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) is a collection of books and resources on ten habits which held the early Church in Acts together. Two of the habits are “Gladness & Generosity” and “Sharing Resources”. You can watch the URC’s videos on each of these Holy Habits on YouTube (or email [wtw@urc.org.uk](mailto:wtw@urc.org.uk) for copies of the films):

- Gladness and generosity: <https://youtu.be/2-qK6bkRYds>
- Sharing resources: <https://youtu.be/ODNxtvd6dUg>

### What questions should we be asking?

- What is happening in our church that is good for members?
- What is happening in our church that is good for the wider neighbourhood?
- If you had to pick one thing for our church to focus its resources on, what would it be? Why?
- What should our church’s aims be?
- Then, after all that, how can we afford it?

### What is our church’s current financial situation?

- Weekly/monthly Expenditure:        £ \_\_\_\_\_        £ \_\_\_\_\_
- Weekly/monthly Income:            £ \_\_\_\_\_        £ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- SHORTFALL / SURPLUS:              £ \_\_\_\_\_

Think about the priorities you identified through the questions above. How might we follow these up, given this situation? Do we need to raise more money? Do we need to give something up in order to achieve something else?

## What is the URC's Mission and Ministry (M&M) Fund?

The Ministry & Mission (M&M) Fund is the name given to the general funds of the United Reformed Church which are held at a denominational level. The object of the fund is to provide, in partnership with local churches and Synods, the financial resources needed to train, equip and remunerate ministry and to support centralised services and the world-wide work of the Church. Underlying the fund is the belief that the financial responsibility for this is to be shared throughout the whole of the Church and contributions to the fund are made as a response to the gracious and plenteous giving of God.

## What message does the URC Treasurer wish to share?

Ian Hardie, URC Treasurer wishes to say thank you for your giving to your local church. Financially, this giving is the lifeblood of your own church and of the whole United Reformed Church across England, Scotland and Wales. It is this personal giving that enables your local church treasurer to pay your church's bills. Typically, the largest of those 'bills' is the contribution your local church pays to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund. This Fund meets the central costs of the United Reformed Church. The total annual budget is around £20 million and is approved each year by Mission Council. Over 80% of this money is spent on ministers and church related community workers – their training, stipends and pensions. But the other 20% also achieves an enormous amount on behalf of us all. General Assembly 2020 was severely constrained because of the Covid-19 lockdown, but the reports written for General Assembly are available on the URC website, and they paint pictures of all the work that has been done in our name over the last two years and much of that work is ongoing.



## What should we do?

We should:

- be aware of what we give and why
- consider an increase in giving, if we can afford it
- be grateful for that which we do have
- think and act realistically.

Steps we can take are to:

- prayerfully review the amount and frequency of our giving
- use the Gift Aid scheme
- use standing orders
- avoid cheques or cash where possible (although we are still very grateful for these).

Further information on how to take these steps is available on the URC website.

## Ultimately...

What we give is between us and God.

What God expects is that each of us will shoulder our responsibility as a member of our church family to the best of our ability in carrying out God's mission because...

## ...The Responsibility Is Ours.



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For more information please email  
[mom.admin@urc.org.uk](mailto:mom.admin@urc.org.uk)  
or visit [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)