

### **Church Subsidy (Church Aid)**

The purpose of the local church subsidy program is to provide money to churches temporarily unable to compensate their pastors according to Conference standards. This program is not designed to fund ministry expansion or the development of new ministries.

There is no source of funding for aid which exists outside of the collective resources of the local churches. When a church requests a subsidy from the Conference, they are asking for funds provided by their sister churches to be allocated to them to meet their needs. If the funds are limited, then the amount requested by a church may not be met. The Finance Committee has an obligation to act prudently.

The Financial Guidelines call for a 10% reduction each year of the aid given. However, based on its review, the Finance Committee may reduce the amount more than 10%.

To receive aid, the application specified below must be submitted to the Finance Committee. Churches must realize that the Finance Committee cannot justifiably give aid without substantiating evidence. Hearsay evidence is not sufficient. Churches already receiving aid, as well as new applicants, must submit the application to the Finance Committee by March 1. The Executive Committee must also give its approval. Then the amount of aid must be included in the Conference proposed budget, which is submitted to the Executive Council by early May. Normally, monthly payments should begin in August.

When a church asks for aid, this means that it is experiencing financial stress. The Finance Committee expects that the church will do things to help itself. The church can:

1. Cut back on some expenses.
2. Transfer money from another fund to the General Fund.
  - Money given by individuals to the church designated for a certain fund cannot be transferred to the General Fund by the Board of Deacons/Trustees. However, if at a congregational meeting the congregation approves of the transfer, then it can be done.
  - If the church sells an asset (for example, the church auto or parsonage), if both the Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees approve, some or all of the proceeds can be placed in the General Fund.

The point is that the attitude of the church should not be "business as usual," but recognition that it needs to "tighten its belt."

In evaluating the applications, the Finance Committee will consider the following:

1. The need of the church, as substantiated by the financial reports included in the application.
2. The availability of funds.
3. Indication that the church is trying to help itself.

**Application for Church Subsidy**  
**OMS Holiness Church of North America**

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_ Dept: English \_\_\_ Nichigo \_\_\_ Combined \_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_New Request \_\_\_Annual Update

1. REQUEST: Amount needed \_\_\_\_\_ per month. Estimated period needed \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. REASON: Give reason aid is needed. Be specific.

3. FINANCIAL HISTORY: Give a 1-year history of all church funds for the Department requesting the subsidy. Round off to nearest dollar. Check whether the fund is English only (E), Nichigo only (N) or Combined (C). This information is important to the Finance Committee.

Specify the time period (for example, Jan 1, 99 to Dec 31, 99) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Fund</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Cash Received</b>	<b>Cash Disbursed</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
General Fund	-	-	-	_____	_____	_____	_____
Building	-	-	-	_____	_____	_____	_____
Missions	-	-	-	_____	_____	_____	_____
Parsonage	-	-	-	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	-	-	-	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	-	-	-	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	-	-	-	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	-	-	-	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	-	-	-	_____	_____	_____	_____

4. GENERAL FUND: Include your detailed statement on the General Fund for the past year. This may be the one in your annual report.

5. What have you done or plan to do to minimize the financial need?

6. SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Pastor
Print Name
Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature, Chair of Board of Deacons
Print Name
Date

Send to: Gene Oda, Finance Committee Chair  
4559 Carol Ave.  
Fremont, CA 94538