

Giving People Options to Give

(shared by Dan Dick)

For decades, the unified budget has been standard in many of our churches. A unified budget basically pools both assets and expenses, and asks people to contribute to a general fund and trust those who manage the financial decisions to allocate it appropriately. Though this method is very easy to follow, it often has a disempowering effect on those who give. We like to know where our money goes, what it actually does, and we like some say in how it is used.

Many churches have developed a hybrid form of budgeting that asks people to commit a percentage of their financial support to a general fund, but then allows each giver to designate a portion of their giving to specific work, ministries, or projects in the church. In both cases, the general support is promoted as essential and important. Here are two examples of financial commitment forms used in churches:

#1 – Category budgeting

Giving to the General Support Fund				
_____ 50%	_____ 75%	_____ 100%		
Giving to Specific Ministries and Programs				
Local Missions	Global Missions	Education Ministries	Building & Facility	Pastoral Support
_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %
We need everyone's support to keep our church strong and we invite everyone to give to those special ministries they feel God is calling them to support. Thank you for your faithful offerings.				
Name: _____				
Amount pledged: _____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Quarterly _____ Annually				

#2 – Needs budgeting

Giving to the General Support Fund

\$ _____

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Quarterly _____ Annually

Second Mile Giving -- Ministry Needs

Education	Technology	Community Outreach	Youth	Building Maintenance
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Other \$	Other \$	Other \$	Other \$	Other \$

Pastoral Support	Parking Lot	Food Pantry	Wednesday Night Ministry Program	Leadership Training
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Other \$	Other \$	Other \$	Other \$	Other \$

Name: _____