

USA Offering Envelopes Frequently Asked Questions July 2016

1. *Why is the church asking congregations in the United States to begin paying for their offering envelopes?*

The Worldwide Mission Budget for fiscal year (FY) 2017 which began on July 1, 2016 included a major reduction in expenses. USA offering envelopes were costing the World Church \$100,000 per year and this budget item was completely eliminated in the FY17 budget.

2. *How much do the envelopes cost?*

USA offering envelopes cost 45¢ per packet for envelopes for a month.

3. *Do congregations in other countries have to pay for their envelopes?*

Congregations in all other developed nations in the church already pay for their offering envelopes. Thus this was a justice issue as well as a financial one.

4. *Is it true that the cost of the envelopes for the USA is equivalent to funding the salary for two positions?*

We have not equated the cost to any specific number of positions. It saves approximately \$100,000 in the Worldwide Mission Budget.

5. *Who controls who gets envelopes mailed to them in the U.S.?*

Congregational Financial Officer and Recorder have primary responsibility for maintaining in the Shelby database the list of who gets offering envelopes mailed to them each month.

6. *What precautions have been taken to ensure congregations are not being billed for unused envelopes?*

Though the primary responsibility for removing people from the envelope listing when appropriate rests with the congregation, World Church staff have gone through the entire Shelby database and removed from the envelope listing anyone who doesn't have a record of using their envelopes for the past two years, including children.

7. *Will the church continue to automatically add children to the envelope mailing list when they turn 8 years old?*

Yes, as a part of our effort to help develop generous disciples from a young age the church will continue to add children to the envelope mailing when they turn eight. The congregational financial officer or recorder always has the ability to add or remove anyone from the envelope list at any time, including children who have been automatically added at the age of eight.

8. *Is it true that we planned to shift envelope funding to the congregation for some time, but we did not have sufficient staff to give advance notice to financial officers?*

This came about as a part of the recent budget reduction process and was approved as a part of the Worldwide Mission Budget on June 26th. Due to other responsibilities and priorities like the implementation of e-Tithing, it took the Fiscal Team three weeks after budget approval to notify financial officers in the USA fields. Part of that three weeks including working to compile a list of congregational financial officer email addresses so that the communication would reach the right people.

9. *Who received notice of this change?*

An email describing the change was sent to USA Congregational Financial Officers, USA Apostles, the Presiding Bishopric, the USA Bishop, USA Field Support Ministers, and the Fiscal Services Team.

10. *Does this have any connection with the recent announcement and launch of e-Tithing?*

No.

11. *Can we mail the envelopes out once every two months instead?*

This option is not currently available.

12. *Can this change be delayed so that congregations can include this expense in their budgets?*

This came about as a part of the recent budget reduction process and was approved as a part of the Worldwide Mission Budget that began July 1, 2016. That means that effective July 1st World Church no longer had any budget for this expense. At a cost of 45¢ per mailing it is hoped that the impact to congregational budgets is minimal.

13. *How much benefit do congregations receive from the envelopes?*

Roughly 2/3 of all envelope contributions are designated to go to local ministries. While electronic giving (now through our new e-Tithing platform: <https://cofchrist.securegive.com>) is quickly gaining popularity, the majority of congregational offerings are still received via offering envelopes at this time.

14. *Where can I find instructions for how to run a Shelby Envelope List or add or remove people from that list?*

Instructions can be found at:

<https://www.cofchrist.org/common/cms/resources/Documents/CFO-Electronic-Processing.pdf>

15. *What if I still have questions?*

The best way to contact the Fiscal Team is via email:

FiscalServices@CofChrist.org. You can also call (816) 833-1000.