

Mission and Ministry

Does it sometimes seem odd to you that churches and other religious organizations ask you for money to fund their ideas? Other entities ask for money too, but often the request surrounds increasing their market share, or research to boost their profits. We here at First, have several people far smarter than I am, and certainly more experienced, who watch every amount contributed, and make certain that we can account for all monetary gifts and how/when/where they were spent. When committee moderators prepare to spend the funds allocated to them, they must account to, and obtain agreement from, others on their committee as well as members of the Session.

And every amount spent must contribute to the mission and ministry goals stated by this church. That means your Session members and your committee members must be in agreement concerning what those goals are, and that our funding consistently matches them.

It's one of the ways that we make certain that our monies are not lost, nor are they spent in ways we would disapprove of. Does *everyone* agree on how money is allocated? Probably not. But everyone is encouraged to be aware, and to voice any concern, so that your leadership may address that concern, and readjust if necessary.

Now I invite you once again to join in the work of any committee, voice your opinions about what work should be done, how the budget should be spent, and who should benefit from it. It's a very Presbyterian thing to do. And goodness knows, you're a *whole lot* smarter'n I am!

Blessings and Pax –

Candice

*Then Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions,
and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;
then come, follow me."
Matthew 19:21*