

# Local Church

## Being Responsible in the Use of Resources

1 Corinthians 14:40 — “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

We have many reasons to praise God for the way He has guided the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The way the truth has been proclaimed, the help that the church has offered society, and the lives that have been saved for the kingdom of God are just some of the aspects that should make us shout, “Praise the Lord!”

But there is another point that should bring gratitude to our hearts, and that is how the church’s resources have been managed. We belong to a denomination that has respectable control of finances. The church follows a strict system in terms of finances, auditing, and budgeting that controls every penny of its resources so that the money is applied to the preaching of the gospel. Church institutions regularly make financial statements available to their boards of directors so that the use of resources is transparent and honest.

We may think that being careful in the use of resources is only up to treasurers and auditors, but there is a way that everyone who returns tithes and gives offerings can help the church have sound accountability for the resources, namely identifying yourself on the tithes and offerings envelope, whether real or virtual. This is very effective for accountability and transparency. Only members who write down their names on the envelope can receive receipts to prove that the money given is really fulfilling their purpose. Even if loose offerings are an acceptable option, the givers should always identify the donation they are making. As you identify yourself, the audit service can do its job, and a chain of conditions will be created to allow the church to act with transparency and accountability.

Ellen G. White says: “God’s plan in the tithing system is beautiful in its simplicity and equality. All may take hold of it in faith and courage, for it is divine in its origin. In it are combined simplicity and utility, and it does not require depth of learning to understand and execute it. All may feel that they can act a part in carrying forward the precious work of salvation” *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 73

**Appeal:** Transparency and seriousness in the use of church resources help to promote the precious work of salvation. That is a good reason for you to identify yourself when you return your tithes and offerings.