

WORKER'S PERSONAL FINANCE (D 55)

W-1

The standards of the ministry in all things should be maintained on an irreproachable basis, in order that "the ministry be not blamed." (2 Cor. 6:3).

Employees should arrange their personal financial budgets so as to live within their regular income, and where they do not succeed in so doing, they should be advised to resign and take up some remunerative line of business outside of denominational employment.

Tithing is a basic Biblical principle which speaks to a person's relationship with his Creator. This relationship is ordained of God for the benefit of His children. Systematic and regular tithing yields rich rewards. Among these is the bond which results between a person and his Creator. Another is experiencing the intrinsic satisfaction of giving one's self and one's means to the Lord. Our Lord's promise of special blessings to the faithful tither can be received in no other way.

Seventh-day Adventist denominational employees are to be models in every facet of their lives. Church members should see in church employees a fidelity to basic principles which is unequivocal. Such employees will demonstrate an exemplary commitment to the Lord and the teaching of His Church.

Because of its importance as a principle and the spiritual experience it represents, tithing, like other basic beliefs and practices of the Church, becomes a condition of employment for all credentialed/licensed employees. Consequently, at the time of employment each individual shall be informed in writing of this requirement which includes the expectation of faithfulness in tithing. Employees shall also be informed that their tithing practices are subject to annual review.

If it is determined that an employee is not faithfully tithing, the president of the employing organization shall discuss the matter with the employee in the spirit of pastoral concern and endeavor to help him understand that he is depriving himself of a blessing and is following a course that is harmful to his relationship with his Creator.

Employees shall not in any way seek personal gifts from church members. When it is necessary for them to discuss their financial affairs, this should be done with their employing bodies rather than with members of the church.

Employees who continually neglect or refuse to pay their just obligations shall be advised to take up some other line of work.