



Stopsley Baptist Church - Fundraising Policy

Introduction

Our fundraising activities are primarily undertaken to raise much needed income for our church ministries. In addition, they also are carried out to:

1. Highlight the specific work, needs, challenges and opportunities of the church and its mission partners.
2. Help to build community within the church and enthusiasm for its ministries and projects

This policy outlines the principles and guidelines that govern fundraising efforts at SBC

Principles

As a church we should always practice good stewardship. These principles are listed as a foundation for any fundraising we carry out:

1. Fundraising should always address worthy and important needs
2. Any fundraising activity must be compatible, in its content and the way its conducted, to the mission, values, and beliefs of SBC. Therefore, funds raised from gambling, for example, would not be accepted
3. All fundraising activities must be respectful of those without the means to give
4. Funds raised will be managed responsibly and accounted for to ensure effective use and measured against the intended goals
5. We value and appreciate the generosity of our donors. All communication with donors will be truthful and considerate of their wishes
6. All fundraising activities will comply with relevant laws, regulations and guidelines
7. The church family should be informed of the goals and achievements of the fundraising activities and volunteers and supporters acknowledged

Mission partners

Fundraising and giving to those in need is a fundamental principle of SBC, which speaks of the love, compassion, and generosity that flows from God, through us to others.

As such, a really important principle that we embrace, is that as we seek to develop fundraising and giving conduits to our local and overseas mission partners, we do this through loving and supportive relationships, which results in informed and prayerfully sustained giving. This supports extends to short-term mission trips and annually nominated local mission partners. The promotion and sustainability of our Global Ministries is the focus of our annual Global Sunday. Therefore, the portfolio of mission partners we support is determined by the Global Sunday budget. Every year there will be a review of our mission giving, which will be reflected in this budget.

Church ministries and projects

For some of our ministries and projects, fundraising will be a planned and/or regular activity. This is to ensure that the ministry/project can fully carry out the purpose for which it was established, whether short-term or ongoing. In these instances, where funding is sought



from 3rd party organisations an ethical approach will be taken. Funding requests will not be made to donors whose activities compromise or undermine our beliefs, values or principles.

Other fundraising initiatives

In addition, as a church family, we will seek to use appropriate opportunities to raise funds throughout the year where there is a specific need communicated to us by one of our partners, or through our church family network. These could be to support any outreach projects they are involved in, to raise money for humanitarian aid, or simply to bless in times of financial challenge. We do this mindful that we are a busy church and recognise that any promotion or fundraising activities ideally needs to be coordinated with the SBC calendar and promotional conduits in order not to overwhelm church family with requests or to clash with other fundraising activity.

We also recognise that fundraising has the spin off potential to inform and educate, and we aim to use opportunities where possible to share information and to pray.

Unsupported fundraising

As an organisation, SBC is aware that, either individuals, groups of individuals, Beacons, or established teams within the church family may wish to support and fundraise for organisations that are not otherwise supported by SBC. Due to the wide variety of supported connections we already have it is unlikely that we will be able to promote these across the SBC church family using our usual communication processes or include these in our yearly fundraising strategy.

Sunday services

Goods and services will generally not be sold at our Sunday services, with the exception of food and drink that has got prior approval from the Senior Leadership Team, and is in line with our principles. Goods and services can be sold at other times where approval has been given by the church leadership. Resource material in support of our ministries and teaching may be sold on Sundays.

Statement

The following statement will be used for public consumption:

SBC is privileged to be connected to a number of ministries serving locally and overseas through our Global Ministries. Our approach with regards to fundraising is to support the relationships God has placed before us as a church by raising money for specific needs within those ministries as well as long-term workers and short-term trips. This fundraising will take place through appeals to church fellowship as well as various events and activities. We also fundraise for our ministries and projects through grant-making bodies and other fundraising activities. Whilst we believe there are many worthy charitable organisations and fundraising opportunities that members of SBC are involved in we recognise that our resources are limited and we are therefore unable to specifically fundraise for these initiatives.