

Changes Coming to CBFNC

Budget and Mission Resource Plan

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

The CBFNC Mission Resource Plan (MRP) was developed in 2004 as a replacement for the Baptist State Convention's Plan C, which was being eliminated. It included all of the items in Plan C (CBF Global, historic NC institutions and ministries, and national CBF partners) plus CBF of North Carolina. Churches had the freedom to use the MRP or not (if not, they designated specific amounts to CBFNC, CBF National, and other partners if desired).

Through the years, about one-half of partner churches have chosen to utilize the MRP. The other half have continued to give with three primary designations: CBFNC Budget; CBF Global Budget; CBF Global Missions Offering.

CBFNC MINISTRY DISCERNMENT PROCESS

In early 2015, the Coordinating Council began leading CBFNC through a "Ministry Discernment Process" in an effort to develop priorities as we look to the future. This process involved gathering information from a variety of sources including church leaders and experts on the future of churches and denominations. It built upon the work of the 20th Anniversary Vision Team, whose report was adopted by the General Assembly in 2014.

As a result of this discernment work, the Coordinating Council adopted four priorities for future ministry:

- Equip Ministers and Churches
- Embrace Neighbors Through Missions
- Engage Students and Young Adults
- Enhance the Annual Gathering

WHY CHANGE THE MRP NOW?

In addition to the four priorities, the Coordinating Council also determined to merge the MRP and the CBFNC Ministry Budget. The MRP served our fellowship (churches, partners, CBFNC-led ministries) well throughout much of this history, but circumstances and needs (of churches, CBFNC, partners, and new CBFNC ministry opportunities) have changed drastically since its inception.

We are moving from a fixed percentage for some partners to a unified budget based on the unique needs of each partner.

Here are the reasons for making this change, aligned with benefits for churches, partners and CBFNC as a whole:

BENEFITS TO CHURCHES

a. **The current system is confusing to churches.** Partners are funded in different, sometimes multiple ways. Some partners may receive funding through their MRP allocation, the CBFNC operating budget, and the CBF Global operating budget. Many churches don't understand how their money is currently divided between CBFNC, CBF Global and partners.

b. With a unified approach, **churches may still designate funds to partners.**

BENEFITS TO PARTNERS

a. **Partners are different**, both from each other, and from what they were in 2004. Some partners have a greater need than others for funding through CBFNC channels.

b. **Some partners have developed elaborate fundraising structures.** They have departments devoted to fundraising. They are no longer dependent on all or a majority of their funding coming from a single denominational source.

BENEFITS TO CBFNC

a. **CBFNC only receives funding from churches and individuals** (and occasional small grants), and has a limited ability to raise funds beyond our traditional funding sources. This approach will give CBFNC more flexibility in funding the priorities that have been identified by constituents.

b. **The current MRP is difficult to adjust.** The unified approach will allow us to be more nimble and flexible in meeting changing needs.

BENEFITS TO ALL

This approach will enable CBFNC and partners to **more fully engage in their shared desire for "missional collaboration"** (working together on common missional goals), which we have been attempting since 2009. By developing funding plans together, rather than simply reporting on expenditures, CBFNC and its partners can more effectively reflect emerging priorities.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Partner Conversations – Conversations with partners about changing the MRP began as early as 2015. Over the summer of 2018, partners submitted funding proposals requesting specific funding amounts, sometimes for specific ministries. These proposals will inform the development of the 2019-2020 CBFNC Ministries Budget.

Local Church Communication – Attempts to communicate these changes with local churches have been going on throughout 2018 in a variety of ways. Special presentations were made at the 2018 Annual Gathering.

Final Approval – The final budget will be presented for approval at the 2019 Annual Gathering.

Initial Implementation – Implementation will begin with CBFNC's new fiscal year, starting April 1, 2019. CBFNC staff will work with individual churches to "map" their current giving plan to the new approach. This will ensure that CBFNC honors all church giving plans and designations.

For more questions, contact CBFNC Executive Coordinator, Larry Hovis (LHovis@cbfnc.org).