



MONEY MATTERS AND BEST PRACTICES

Our Bega Kwa Bega Companion Congregations have pledged to uphold three pillars or commitments: prayer, presence, and projects. Here are some of the best practices around sharing gifts with one another through joint projects.

Commitments

- \$1000 per year is the minimum suggested contribution toward projects in the parish's strategic plan.
- \$500 per year is the minimum suggested contribution toward secondary scholarship program.
- Larger or longer-term projects (more than \$5000, longer timeline than one year, or projects involving outside contractors), should involve the DIRA General Secretary or designee for appropriate planning and oversight.
- As mandated by the SPAS Synod Council, a 12.5% administrative fee is applied to funds sent for scholarships and projects to support the administrative work done by the BKB offices in St Paul and in Iringa.

Tracking, Security and Accountability

- Sending funds through BKB-SPAS ensures that your gifts are secure, tracked, and accountable through the approval procedures of both BKB-SPAS and BKB-DIRA. For instance, schools are visited to ensure that students on the list are actually in attendance, and larger projects may be visited for progress reports and to send photos. Additionally, sending funds rather than having travelers carry cash supports personal safety and security.
- Twice a year, Cluster Leaders distribute financial reports to each congregation. Generally, congregational funds are tracked in three subaccounts: General, Scholarship, and Travel
- The Bega Kwa Bega office regularly monitors the exchange rate of Tanzania Shillings to U.S. dollars. The current rate is published in the Companion News Update.
- Most BKB funds are physically held in U.S. bank accounts and transferred to Iringa as needed to cover expected expenditures.
- Questions about your congregation's financial reports can be directed to the Director, Cluster Leader or the Financial Coordinator.

How to Contribute

Write checks payable to Saint Paul Area Synod with the designation in the memo line or have your church use the SPAS remittance form; mail to Saint Paul Area Synod, P.O. Box 64689, St. Paul MN 55164-0689. Or, give online, either one-time or set up monthly sustaining gifts at spas-elca.org/give.