

United Church of God *an International Association*

Robert Dick
Chairman

Clyde Kilough
President

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS SABBATH, DECEMBER 16, 2006

From the President's Office:

Dear Brethren,

Although you might have already read the reports on the latest Council of Elders' meetings just concluded this week, I wanted to highlight for everyone a special item of news that was very encouraging to the Council and home office staff, and one which I am certain will be equally inspiring to you as well.

The bottom line is that due to a very positive financial situation here in the United States, we are going to be able to invest in preaching the gospel and strengthening the Church quite a bit above and beyond what we budgeted for at the beginning of this year. God has blessed His Church in many ways, and when that blessing comes financially, we are able to plow more resources back into the work that He gave us to do.

Before explaining some of the details, let's look at the income trends from several angles. Over the last nine years of United's existence, the income has increased at a compound rate of 3.45 percent annually. Over the last four years, the income has grown at a rate of 4.75 percent. In the last fiscal year (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006) it increased at a rate of 7.8 percent. The increase so far for the current fiscal-year-to-date is 8.93 percent. And in the last 365 days, as of today, December 15, the increase has been 10.14 percent!

We carried over surplus income from 2005-2006 into the current fiscal year, and in the first 5 1/2 months of this fiscal year we are adding to it, running well above what was anticipated. A few weeks ago I asked the operation managers, Peter Eddington in Media and Communications, Jim Franks in Ministerial Services and Tom Kirkpatrick in Finance, how they could best spend some extra money this year to advance the work in their areas. At the end of the discussion we concluded that, based on current trends, everyone's requests can be accommodated in the next few months.

Mr. Eddington asked for over a half-million additional dollars (\$531,000) to boost the subscriber base of *The Good News*, *World News and Prophecy* and *Vertical Thought* through some aggressive advertising campaigns. Mr. Franks projected that another \$202,000 could really accelerate our leadership training efforts in the United States, internationally and with youth programs. With just under three-quarters of a million dollars spoken for, that still leaves sufficient for Dr. Kirkpatrick's wish—over \$1 million to pay off the home office property next spring. You can read the details of this discussion in the Council reports.

This is obviously a real shot in the arm for all aspects of our operations! Putting more material in the hands of readers and building the subscriber base, doing more with our church training programs and saving a lot of money by paying off our loan in advance are great blessings we had not considered being able to do only a year ago. Just paying off the loan will save us over \$400,000 in interest over the next 10 years, plus free up \$156,000 a year that we spend in mortgage payments, which can be funneled into other areas of the budget.

Over the last nine years the Council and administration of the Church has charted a course of conservative financial management, and will continue to do so, but that is our duty. Credit for the strong income trend can only be attributed to God's blessings. I know that God's people have their hearts in His way of life, and in His work, and as we humbly continue to focus on seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness, He will bless us for that. It is true that we live in a fragile world that could suffer economic downturns at any time, and if that happens, then we will change plans accordingly. But in the meantime, we are deeply grateful for the opportunities that extra income allows us to pursue, and deeply grateful for your faithfulness and heartfelt support. Who knows what God has yet in mind? We may be a little flock, but we have a great work yet to do and God has promised that He will see it through!

I just wanted to say "thank you," and to share this good news with you in a special way through this Sabbath announcement. I hope you have an inspiring service and time fellowshiping with one another on this wonderful Sabbath day.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clyde Kilough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Clyde" being more prominent and the last name "Kilough" following in a similar style.

Clyde Kilough