

YOUR STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

How Stewardship and Participant Fees are used

Beginning Experience International Ministry provides for teams:

- 1) Maintaining copyright protection for the ministry's programs and trademark protection for the name and graphic images to provide an identity for the ministry worldwide
- 2) Authorization to present the copyrighted programs, train team members with ministry training materials, and identification with the trademarked name and graphic images
- 3) Develops and updates model legal structure for development of these team documents:
 - Model Articles of Incorporation/Articles of Association
 - Model team bylaws
 - Model conflict resolution procedures
- 4) Maintenance of tax-exempt status [not-for-profit or 501 (c) 3 status] for United States teams, which:
 - Protects team income from U.S. federal taxes
 - Entitles those who contribute to the ministry to a tax deduction for gifts in excess of value received
 - Saves teams the time, effort and cost of applying for and maintaining non-profit status on their own
- 5) Researching insurance coverage and carrying group insurance policies providing the following for teams in the U.S. and Canada:
 - Protection from claims of damage to facilities by participants or team, including fire and legal liability. (Certificate of Insurance is provided to each facility upon request)
 - Protection for team and team members from personal loss resulting from claims of personal and/or psychological injury by/from participants in weekends or other programs
 - Protection for board members from personal liability due to decisions made in their role as a board member

If there were no International Ministry, the effect would be:

- 1) Copyrights and trademarks would fall into the public domain; anyone could use them for their own purposes. Ministry identity and program integrity would be lost.
- 2) Without a body to protect registered copyrights and trademarks from unauthorized use, anyone or any group could use ministry material without fear of reprisal. Ministry identity and program integrity would be compromised.
- 3) Each team would need to develop these documents on their own and complete the legal steps necessary; organizational consistency among teams would be lost; each team would need to "reinvent the wheel."
- 4) In order to function in the United States as a not-for-profit organization, each team would need to apply for tax exempt status on its own, complete the required documents, and pay the associated fees. If the team does not have tax exempt status, it must file an annual federal corporate income tax forms, state corporate tax forms, and are liable for these taxes.
- 5) Each team would need to research, provide the detailed information required to apply for coverage, and pay the premiums as a lone organization.
 - Depending on the carrier that agreed to provide the coverage, these premiums vary from \$2,500 to \$5,0000 per team
 - Alternatively, teams could decide to take their chances and risk their team's assets as well as the personal assets of their team and board members if a claim for damages was made.

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| <p>6) Policies to guide team functioning and decision-making that provide a framework for making difficult decisions</p> <p>7) Organizational direction for all teams through mission and vision statements</p> <p>8) Safeguards for program and mission integrity through structures for team development, certification and recertification, and review and revision of program and training materials</p> <p>9) Public relations and marketing through an international website, news releases to national Catholic and secular media, and newsletters to national referral groups such as Catholic Family Life directors, Marriage Tribunal judges, etc.</p> <p>10) Provides education and training programs for teams at conferences and conventions, and through development of training materials covering such topics as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing for participants • Team invitation and training • Budgeting for and financing the local ministry • Training new team members • Training board members • Many other topics <p>11) Spiritual direction through faith-based programs, a faith-filled environment and developing spiritual resources for teams</p> <p>12) Provides for Inter-ministry communication via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletters, mail and e-mail • Web site • Phone contact • Personal visits | <p>6) Policies to guide team decision-making, often developed from lessons learned the hard way from multiple teams, would be non-existent. There would be no guide when difficult situations arose. Each team would need to learn these lessons the hard way.</p> <p>7) Each team would be on its own to decide what its mission was; no consistency among teams.</p> <p>8) Standards for effective functioning would be non-existent; if they were to exist, each team would need to develop these on their own. Even so, there would be no outside body to hold the team to a standard, nor to update materials. Consistency of program and training materials would be lost. Teams would be at greater risk of claims for damages without a standard to adhere to.</p> <p>9) Each team responsible totally for its own messaging at a local level; no consistency in the messages</p> <p>10) Each team would be on its own for developing training and educational materials, isolated from anyone else providing similar services. No consistency; the benefit and impact of a larger, consistent approach would not exist. Everyone would be “reinventing the wheel.”</p> <p>11) Each team responsible for developing its own spirituality resources</p> <p>12) Any inter-team communication that existed would be unstructured and haphazard</p> |
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| <p>13) Establishes a central administration through the Executive Director and an International Ministry Center to provide services listed above and apply ministry policies</p> <p>14) Access to counsel, advice and encouragement from executive director, International Ministry Center staff and members of the International Board</p> <p>15) Establishes regional boards (one in Great Britain/Ireland and one in the Asia Pacific area) to assist in the administrative responsibilities and ministry oversight</p> <p>16) Church connection at a national level through a bishop serving as liaison for the ministry to the U.S. Catholic Bishop's Conference and membership in the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers; and connections at a national level with other national/international ministries. (Regional boards connect with bishops and diocesan offices in other countries)</p> <p>17) Provides long-term stability for a ministry whose local teams are fluid in their team membership</p> <p>18) Peer representation in international decision-making and policy development through International Board members who are selected from the teams and have local ministry experience</p> | <p>13) Without an executive director and staff to do the work of maintaining copyrights, trademarks, updating materials, developing communication, etc., this would not exist</p> <p>14) Advice would come only from others on the team or from past team. In conflict or power/control situations, the lack of experienced outside advice can lead to the downfall of the team.</p> <p>15) Teams in Britain and Ireland and in the Asia Pacific region would lack an entity to help with governmental and church structures that differ from those in the United States; would lack a connection that understood differences in culture and circumstance</p> <p>16) No connection at a national level; at a diocesan level only; each team responsible for this on their own</p> <p>17) Little institutional memory or learning since team members work through their grief and move either into supportive roles or move on into other ministries</p> <p>18) Without an international body, there would be no peer representation in the decisions made or policies established for the benefit of all teams and the ministry as a whole.</p> |
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SUMMARY: Without the International Ministry, teams would cease to exist.