

United Church of God

an International Association

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest. In response to requests for guidelines on how to apply the statute in today's circumstances, our Council of Elders issued a policy statement in September 1996. It's a lengthy statement, but here is a summary of the conclusion:

“The Council of Elders has resolved that where governments provide programs, the intent and purpose of which is to provide for the needs of those that the biblical third tithe was designed to assist, and that where such programs are funded by an annual rate of taxation greater than the biblical third tithe [that is now the case with the United States], members are not obligated to pay what amounts to *an additional third tithe* to the Church . . . Since there will always be members of the Church whose needs will not be adequately provided for by national government social programs, and since the clear example of the scripture is that the Church care for its members in need . . . those members of the Church [who] are able . . . are encouraged to contribute to the Church Assistance Fund, so that the biblical injunction to care for the needy within the Church can be fulfilled.”

Please let us know if you would like to have a full copy of the policy statement about the third tithe. Or you can find it online at our Web site at www.ucg.org/papers.

If we can be of further help, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Personal Correspondence Department