

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

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The Importance of Paying Annual Dues to the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, for the support of our ministry to men and boys in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion

What Would Happen If We Did Not Pay Dues?

How did the Brotherhood begin?

Mr. James L. Houghteling organized a group of 12 young men who met regularly for prayer and Bible study at St. James Church, in Chicago, Illinois. Their Rector, the Rev. W. H. Vibbert asked them to take a drunkard off his hands as the man often came to the church asking for help. The man mostly slept during their meetings, and at one lucid moment he spoke to them about a church he attended years earlier that had a group named for St. Philip and St. Andrew. He said that they reminded him of Andrew, who brought his brother Peter to meet Jesus, and he later died of his illness. The group invited men to church who lived in neighborhood rooming houses, following the example of Andrew and fifty of these men were confirmed at St. James in the first year. They asked permission of their Rector to form a group to be named the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and the first meeting of this new Brotherhood was held on St. Andrew's Day, 1883, and soon became a spiritual force in the parish. The idea of this ministry rapidly caught on and other parishes were encouraged to form groups, as well. News of what they were doing spread very quickly, so that by 1886, there were over 100 groups across the U. S. and Canada, with interest throughout the Anglican Communion. The groups initially adopted just two disciplines, Prayer and Service and met together to pray, study scripture, and plan how to reach out to other men with the Good News. A meeting of group representatives was coincidental with the Episcopal Church's General Convention in Chicago, where it was decided that a national office was needed to coordinate what was becoming an international ministry. Each group then accepted the authority of the National Office and became known as a Chapter. From the March 2009 revised Answering Questions Booklet.

Our Chapter responsibility today!

As a Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, each member accepts the authority of the National Office, as previously stated above, to remain a Chapter.

What would happen if we did not have to pay dues?

My first response would be that we had to be left with a memorial from a very generous benefactor for the Brotherhood to continue on without dues. My second thought on this issue would be simple. If we are to be a ministry to men and boys in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, and we did not collect national dues, we would cease to be effective in our evangelism ministry. Just as your parish would have to close its doors if you had a congregation that did not pledge, and just as you would if you hadn't enough money to pay for a priest, an organist, sexton or any other employee. You would not have a salaried staff, unless of course they were all volunteers. This is not the case in the overwhelming majority of parishes in this Country.

If the function of a national office ceased as a result, then one might ask, well then why did the men who met in Chicago in 1886 feel that we needed a national office to coordinate our ministry? Aren't we a ministry devoted to the spread of Christ's kingdom? Without funds and a structure in place, we would

ultimately be churches with men's groups having little outside contact with one another, across the United States and throughout the World. Of course, that is assuming the membership would want to continue to function as a chapter in the Brotherhood.

Why pay dues?

The National Brotherhood of St. Andrew has been a ministry to men and boys for over 125 years through the generosity of those who preceded us. What legacy will we be leaving those who follow after us if we decide not to pay dues? In time we will fade away in memory! Many people will say in conversation, that a family member or friend was in the Brotherhood, and with fondness tell what they remember about his involvement in our ministry and of the Brotherhood events they witnessed. There are many stories told of these past experiences.

Jesus said, "I came not to be served, but to serve." Can we do less as members of the Brotherhood? We are servant leaders who are committed to the three Disciplines of Prayer, Study and Service, as a men's ministry.

On page 3 of the Devotional Handbook, we recite together: Leader: As our Lord and Master Jesus Christ suffered death upon the cross that all who came after him should have light, we dedicate ourselves anew to the purpose of the Brotherhood, the spread of Christ's kingdom, especially among men and youth, not by our might but by the power of God's Spirit.

We continue on page 3 with reciting the following: The Discipline of Prayer is to pray daily for the spread of Christ's kingdom, especially among men and youth, and for God's blessings upon the labors of the Brotherhood. The Discipline of Study is to study the Holy Scriptures regularly and the teachings of the Church, to attain a better understanding of how to follow Christ and bring others into his kingdom. The Discipline of Service is to make continuous efforts, week by week, to bring others nearer to Christ through his Church.

On page 4, the leader recites: We recognize our commitment faithfully to keep our disciplines of daily prayer, regular study, and continuous service for the spread of Christ's kingdom among men and youth. Our help is in the name of the Lord. We recite this passage in the Devotional Handbook during the opening service for a Chapter Meeting. How long have you used this service to begin your meetings? Adherence to the Three Disciples is also accepting the responsibility to financially support the Brotherhood's mission and ministry,

What is the reluctance to paying dues?

The men who have not paid their dues haven't for various reasons, some known and some not. This reluctance is a misunderstanding about the need for dues. It is not just about getting the St. Andrew's Cross Publication, and answering the question, what will the Brotherhood do for me! It is about your belief that the Brotherhood is important in your ministry to men and boys in your life today, and will be meaningful in the lives of the men you have yet to evangelize. Our willingness to say, "Here I am Lord, use me as you will" requires a continual renewal of our devotion to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the renewal of our dedication to the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.