

# Proposed Guiding Principles for Revised Assessment System

At YM 2017, the ad hoc committee on SAYMA assessments proposed the guiding principles below for a to-be-designed revised assessment system. Due to lack of time, these principles were not considered at YM 2017 and were referred to September Rep Meeting. The ad hoc committee now asks that Rep Meeting discuss these proposed guiding principles not for decision, but rather as a way of engaging reps in the topic and providing a basis for upcoming consideration at the monthly meeting level. The ad hoc committee now has the responsibility of shepherding a discernment process among monthly meetings and anticipates that the proposed guiding principles will be among the materials considered by monthly meetings.

These are the proposed guiding principles:

1. **Dependably produce the budgeted assessment income for SAYMA.** Any revision should address a fundamental problem with the current system, in which too often the revenue from assessments does not meet the budget.
2. **Create a link between the annual census and the assessment, so that numbers reported on the census tie to the assessment.** Up to now, there has been no link between the assessment and the annual census; in fact, the absence of a connection has been explicit. However, both systems involve similar data. We think the time has come to align the systems.
3. **Result in monthly meeting payments in proportion to monthly meeting size.** We believe the most practical way of allocating financial responsibility for SAYMA among its monthly meetings continues to be for monthly meetings to pay in proportion to their size.
4. **Promote consistency among monthly meetings, while still allowing room for monthly meetings to exercise appropriate discretion.** The current high degree of inconsistency among monthly meetings is a problem both practically and in terms of trust among monthly meetings. SAYMA cannot and should not try to dictate exactly how a monthly meeting determines its financial support of SAYMA, but SAYMA can promote a higher degree of consistency by providing clarity of expectations and opportunities for monthly meetings to share practices.
5. **Align system elements to support integrity and accountability by monthly meetings.** System elements within SAYMA include at least the following: the census, budgeting, opportunities for sharing information among monthly meetings, and written guidance. Any lack of alignment at the SAYMA level can lead to confusion at the monthly meeting level, making it harder to practice integrity and accountability. Let's fix the systems to make it easier for monthly meetings to support SAYMA with clarity and consistency.