

The Local Church Audit

Why would a local church want an audit? Here are a few:

An audit is the best way we (and the General Conference) know of

- to protect the persons the local church elects to offices of financial responsibility from unwarranted charges of careless or improper handling of funds;
- to build the trust and confidence of the financial supporters of the church in the way their money is being accounted for (trust and confidence lead to improved patterns of financial support);
- to set habits of fiscal responsibility to assure that when there is turnover in personnel there will be continuity in accountability and nothing will fall through the cracks;
- to assure that gifts made to the church with special conditions attached are consistently administered in accordance with the donors' instructions, and thus let donors know their gifts are used as intended;
- to provide checks and balances for sums received and expended. Conducting an audit is not a symbol of distrust.

It is a mark of responsibility.

It is good stewardship demonstrated for all to see.

It is a message to local church donors that you care about their gifts.

In the definition of a local church audit, what does "independent" mean?

"Independent" means that the auditor must not be subject to control or influence by anyone who has responsibility for the financial accounts and records of the local church. There should not be even the appearance of a relationship that may dilute the perception of the independence of the auditor.

Can you outline just what an audit does?

For starters, an audit should:

- Independently verify the reports of the treasurer(s);
- Follow the money and test how it is treated at different steps;
- Document that donated and earned funds of the congregation have been used as stipulated by the donors.
- In addition to tracking the cash through the system, an auditor typically will evaluate:
 - Accounting controls (systems that reduce the possibility of loss or errors);
 - Segregation of duties (assurances that more than one person is involved in critical steps in handling money so that there can be checks and balances);
 - Reasonableness of systems and procedures in the light of all factors, including the size of the church and its budget;
 - Systems for retaining and accessing meeting minutes that have financial implications (i.e., Finance Committee, Church Board); and
 - Records that show donors' stipulations for the use of gifts made to the local church.

Sample Church Audit Guide

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Sample Church Audit Guide:

Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2013-2016 - Finance Philip D. Jamieson, 2012-11 The goal of the ministry of finance is to fund ministries that nurture persons in their faith The finance system in the congregation will raise manage and disperse the funds of the congregation that help realize the mission and vision of the church This Guideline is designed to help equip you in leading this ministry group in your congregation This is one of the twenty six Guidelines that cover church leadership areas including Church Council and Small Membership Church the administrative areas of Trustees and ministry areas focused on nurture outreach and witness including Worship Ev

Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2013-2016 (Set of 26) General Board Of Discipleship, 2012 The Guidelines booklets one for each ministry area are tools that enable you to help get new lay leaders off to a good start Each booklet includes the basic job description for the leader as well as practical how to information important to implementing ministry effectively Brief and to the point for the busy but spirit led leader these Guidelines take some of the unknown out of leading these ministry areas One booklet for each title makes up this set of 26 Guidelines perfect for making them available to all church members The twenty six Guidelines one for each ministry are

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Zondervan 2005 Church and Nonprofit Tax and Financial Guide Dan Busby, 2004-12 The 2005 edition of this annual reference guide contains a thorough description of tax laws affecting churches and other nonprofit organizations

Zondervan 2019 Church and Nonprofit Tax and Financial Guide Dan Busby, Vonna Laue, Michael Martin, John Van Drunen, 2019-01-22 The Zondervan 2019 Church and Nonprofit Tax and Financial Guide annual reference guide continues to be one of the few resources offering tax and financial advice to churches and nonprofit organizations Issues of financial accountability receiving and maintaining tax exempt status accounting for charitable gifts and other crucial topics receive careful and full discussion The 2019 edition also contains a thorough description of tax laws affecting churches and other nonprofit organizations ensuring compliance with all regulations The book includes expert advice on handling charitable gifts sample policies and procedures easy techniques for simplifying financial policies and procedures insights on medical expense reimbursements key steps in sound compensation planning and examples of required IRS filings

Zondervan 2003 Church and Nonprofit Tax and Financial Guide Daniel D. Busby, 2002-11-29 Written in plain English by a CPA this complete tax and financial guide for churches and other nonprofit organizations includes sample IRS forms plus guidance on incorporation procedures filing for tax exempt status and charitable giving options

The Official Railway Guide, 1892

CCH Accounting Articles, 1975

Accounting Articles Commerce Clearing House, 1975

The Taxpayer's Internal Revenue Service Audit Survival Manual Vernon K. Jacobs, Charles W. Schoeneman, 1982

The Accountant, 1987

Books and Pamphlets, Including Serials and

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