

Coaching Guide #10 – Financial Systems

Setting up proper financial systems for a new church is absolutely essential. The news and denominational offices are riddled with stories of pastors who have fallen and churches that have been destroyed because appropriate financial systems were not established, and the pastor was not accountable to others in the area of financial management. Paul writes in II Cor. 8, “we want to avoid any criticism in the way we administer this liberal gift”. Paul’s words seem even more important in our world today.

Biblical Foundations

- II Corinthians 8:18-23

Checklist

- Two person financial system set up
 - financial secretary (inflow)
 - Treasurer (outflow)
- Check signing procedure set up (2 people required to sign all checks)
- Offering collection, counting, and depositing procedures set up in writing (at least 2 people counting all monies)
- Gift tracking system set up
- Bookkeeping system set up
- Initial board of directors who will review finances regularly set up
- Financial system reviewed by church planting coach

Reflective Questions

- What accounting software will you use to track your church’s income and expenses?
- How will you identify the qualifications for your financial coordinator? How often will they report to you?
- How will you know how much people are giving to your church?
- What do your weekly offerings need to be for the church to meet its current budget? To be self supporting?
- What is the largest amount of money that can be spent without permission from the leadership team or church?
- Who will make sure that the church is keeping up with its financial obligations?

Conclusion:

Establishing healthy financial systems and holding yourself and your church accountable, early in the life of the church plant can bring trust and confidence in the leadership of your church. Active involvement from a strong financial team protects the integrity of the church, its leadership, and its desire to fulfill God’s mission for your church.

