



21st Century Accounting Inc.

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Church Management Seminar

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Ethical Accounting

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Ethical Accounting

This is the Church Management Seminar – consequently it is important to understand Who the Church is. All too often, we forget this reality. We take the Church for granted.

Let me start by sharing that I utilize the term Ecclesia. I am an ethicist. I am asking you to stretch today. The Ecclesia is an Eternal Organism that comes to the Earth in the year 33. Jesus of Nazareth is the Head of the Ecclesia.

The Ecclesia has a Message to share with all people. It is called the Good News, commonly referred to as the Gospel.

You claim to represent the Ecclesia in a specific capacity. Whatever that capacity is, it is important to understand that the Ecclesia continues throughout time. You should be committed to the success of the Ecclesia in whatever capacity you are able.

The Ecclesia is designed to be successful.¹

The success of the Ecclesia is assured when everyone carries out their calling to the best of their ability. That is why the Ecclesia is compared to a body.²

The Ecclesia is made up of every person in the Community who is on the Membership roll and consequently has gifts granted by Jesus to perform them for everyone's benefit.

There are various methods of maintaining records of the Community Membership. There is nothing better than what I have found in *PSA Church Management*.

Let us look at how significant your Community and congregation are in the objective criteria based upon the standards for enterprises in Canada.³ This may shock you, and should.

Micro enterprises have annual revenue, or receipted donations in the Church terms of reference of less than \$3,000,000. Think about this for a minute. If your Church doesn't have a budget of \$3,000,000 then your congregation is only a micro enterprise. Your Community should be concerned about sharing the Good News of Jesus with others as the Great Commission instructs. This is a basic level of an enterprise, such as your congregation.

Micro enterprises have assets of \$3,000,000. Are your facilities worth \$3,000,000?

Now let us look at small enterprises.

¹ John 3:17

² 1 Cor. 12

³ *Tackling Compliance: Small Business and Regulation in Canada* © The Certified General Accountants Association of Canada, 2006

Would you be proud to say that your Church is a small Church?

Do you have annual revenue, or receipted donations of less than \$15,000,000? This is the definition of a small Church congregation.

Small enterprises have assets of \$15,000,000. Is your Church building worth \$15,000,000?

Are you proud to be a small Church? How large a Church do you wish to grow?

Now let us look at medium enterprises.

Do you have annual revenue, or receipted donations of less than \$75,000,000? This is the definition of only a medium-sized Church congregation.

Medium-sized enterprises have assets of \$65,000,000. Is your Church building worth \$65,000,000?

Let me challenge you to consider this as a mega-church:

The Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople had a staff of:

80 Presbyters

150 Deacons

40 Deaconesses

70 Subdeacons

160 Readers

25 Cantors

100 doorkeepers.⁴

Most of the prominent accounting software providers see no reason for investing in not-for-profit organizations – never mind charities or churches. You are not worth it to them.

There are many American software providers who have fine accounting software, but the differences between the two systems are too difficult to overcome.

I'm not here to debate the benefits of the Canadian system of charitable reporting with the American system.

The reality is that your accounting software **must** follow the legal requirements for you to maintain your status as a charity.

Churches are privileged to have many benefits as a result of being in Canada.

Churches are presently exempt from paying municipal taxes.

⁴ Timothy Ware, *The Orthodox Church*, p 270

Ministers are provided with numerous tax breaks.

However, 90% of all charities fail to file their Charitable Information Return on time.

Churches now pay a portion of GST.

Many people are demanding that churches should pay all taxes, especially municipal taxes.

Professional accountants, and exceptional appropriate accounting software can assist in producing success in your church.

Now do you understand why this Church Management Seminar is so important?

We're challenging you and your Church congregation to be realistic about your calling from Jesus of Nazareth – the Theanthropos. Do you share Jesus with anybody?

How are you inspiring your congregation? Do all your Members tithe? Do they expect to be blessed?

I heard of a pastor who received a call from a person wanting to join his church's mall ministry. The pastor was perplexed. He asked around and found out that one of his congregation had been at the grocery store in the mall. The cashier had a physical ailment that was making her depressed. The Christian asked her if she wanted to be healed. When she said yes, the Christian prayed that Jesus would heal her. When the cashier was healed, she got on the store's PA system and announced that if anyone needed healing, they should come to her cash register. People came and were healed. The pastor got back to the person inquiring and said "We may not have a Mall Ministry, but we do have people that shop at the mall".

This Church Management Seminar is designed to provide you with the tools to assist your congregation to become what Jesus wants you to be.

Jesus of Nazareth is the only Head of the Ecclesia.

One day you will stand before Jesus and explain what sized Church Community you have brought to Him.

I have seen a beautiful example of how this is understood. At the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George on Bond Street there is an icon of St. George presenting the Temple, or Church building, to the Theanthropos as a Gift.

How can you achieve success for your congregation in the Church? There are simple steps that you can take.

Do you have a sign that faces the correct way? I've seen signs that can only be read after you pass the Church building? Did you know that the Crystal Cathedral failed to have a sign?

Do you have a sign that tells people when your Services are?

Does your sign direct people to the correct door to enter the Church sanctuary? There is nothing more embarrassing than to go through the wrong door and not know where the sanctuary is.

Something as simple as how to enter your Church building can deter people.

Do you have greeters or ushers? Where do people first meet them?

Did you know that at the Crystal Cathedral there are ushers in the parking lot? This isn't so amazing when you realize that 3,000 people leave and 3,000 enter the Crystal Cathedral between services.

Does your Church sanctuary have the capacity to allow 3,000 people to enter?

As an ethicist, I see a great need for the Church to be active in sharing the Theanthropos with the people of the GTA and all of Canada.

As an ethicist who is a proponent of the Theanthropic Ethics category, I have an affinity with your position. We both share the reality that truth is not a concept. I tell everyone that the Truth is one Hypostasis of the Tri-Hypostatical Divinity. This is a scientific reality.

Every charity submits a report to the Canada Revenue Agency. The churches financial standing and status are available to everyone. Your charitable reports are available on the internet.

As an ethicist who works for an accounting consulting firm, I am very concerned. Your church congregation needs to be completely ethical, since you represent the Theanthropos and His Ecclesia.