**CFO FORUM SUMMARY**

**September 28-29, 2021**

**Missionary Church Headquarters**

**Ft. Wayne, Indiana**

**Participants:** Host, Dr. Don Williams-Missionary Church; Keith Cox-Nazarene; Kevin Batman-Wesleyan; Jen Neal-Church of God (Anderson); and Ron Duncan.

**Agenda:** Top Legal Trends, Resources, Question and Answers on Numerous issues, and Strategic Thinking for CFO’s.

**Devotions** was presented by Ron Duncan on the first recorded CFO in the New Testament and the lessons we can learn. Prayers were offered for numerous persons and situations.

**Kyle Johnson, Associate Corporate Counsel for Brotherhood Mutual**, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the services provided by Brotherhood Mutual. In addition, he covered numerous topics including an update on Religious Freedom, Equality Act, Gender Identity issues, Employment best practices, Child Abuse Prevention and Constitutional issues impacting the church.

He highlighted the various free services and sample forms which are available online. Legal Assist is a service that has answered over 20,000 legal questions since it was instituted in 2017. The Safety Library has had 430,000 page views and they keep updating information daily as new recommendations are made. These are free to all.

He reviewed some of the insurance policies that are available to the church. He also shared about Ministry Works which is a payroll services product. Additionally, Brotherhood Mutual provides property and liability insurance, commercial auto insurance, workers’ compensation, mission protection, and cyber liability.

There was a question and answer period concerning numerous questions of our participants.

We had dinner with **Scott Figgins, Senior Vice President-Insurance Operations of Brotherhood Mutual.** He shared about the growth of Brotherhood Mutual over the past thirty years and how they have been blessed in serving the needs of the church at large. He also emphasized all the free material and forms available on the web site.

Each of the participants shared about personal and professional issues. There was discussion about software products and their effectiveness. A main question was about ransom ware and what positions and policies were in place. The general feeling was that you need to back up data regularly and encrypt in such a manner that it cannot get hacked. Also, most felt like they would not pay if hacked.

A second main question was “What are the conversations we should be having as religious leaders?” The CFO’s discussed the relationship between themselves and their leaders. CFO’s are viewed by most as How people while ministry program persons are seen as Why people. What are appropriate communication guidelines to build healthy teams and ministries?

Another important conversation was concerning the building and employee footprints for denominational headquarters in the future. All that were present have experienced a smaller footprint of employees even before COVID, but COVID accelerated the draw down. This led to the discussion about the standards being established for in person, hybrid, and totally remote working arrangements. There was raised an idea about the need to study these ideas from the perspective of ministry. It was noted that some expertise exists in the secular world that might be a starting place.

Two remaining major ideas was the need for leadership and new giving strategies. The aging of ministerial leadership both for congregations and judicatory duties causes concern because the current paradigms of ministerial education will probably not work in the coming years. Second career folks entering the ministry today calls for different models. Will our institutions be willing and capable to explore new models?

The shrinking dollars being given to denominational headquarters is a fact which cannot be ignored any longer. The jury is still out as to the impact of COVID on this fact. Those who have taken the government PPE funds were buoyed up temporarily. Most see a smaller denominational headquarters staff, some have already started making the shift.

**Reading Recommendations were shared by the group:**

“Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus”-Nabeel Qureshi

“The Orphan Train-Christina Baker Kline

“Canoeing the Mountains-Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory”-Tod Bolsinger, IVP, 2015.

“Tempered Resilience-How leaders are formed in the crucible of change”-Tod Bolsinger, IVP, 2020

“Change your World”, John Maxwell and Rob Haskins, Harper-Collins, 2021

“The Coming Revolution in Church Economics”-Mark Deymaz, Baker-2019

“God and the Pandemic”-N.T. Wright-Zondervan 2020

“The Post Quarantine Church”-Thom S. Rainer, Tyndall, 2020

“Prophetic City”-Stephen Klineberg, Simon Schuster, 2020

“Revival Starts Here”-Dave Clayton, HIM Publications, 2018

The group determined their next meeting date to be **October 18-19, 2022**. Keith Cox agreed to host the group at the Nazarene headquarters in Lexana, Kansas.

Prepared and submitted by Ron Duncan