

# North American Division

## Treasurers' Orientation

*Presented by Seth T Bardu  
March 29, 2016  
at the Columbia Union Conference*

# Mechanics of the treasury function

*Working with local churches and schools*

# Role: Missional or point of collection?

- Is there a missional side to what happens in the treasury of the local church, or is it just about money?

# Role: Missional or point of collection?

- Is the main role of the treasurer that of a collection agent for the church?

# Role: Missional or point of collection?

- Should church remittance, borrowing of funds etc. be our main focus?

# Role: Missional or point of collection?

- How can we teach treasurers to be mission minded in their work?

- How do we “work” with our churches and schools?

- Traditionally, why and when do we make contact with our school and church treasurer?



- What emphasis do we place on “trust funds” (funds due to the conference) when reviewing or auditing a local church?

- How should a school or church treasurer know what the expectations of the conference are?

- How often have you made contact with a local treasurer that was not related to a late report or insurance premium due?

- Example of B'ham treasurer

- Perceptions: What are some of the perceptions our local treasurers have of conference treasury?

- How do you think church treasurers view all tithe going on to higher organizations when they are struggling locally?

# How critical is role of local church treasurer?

- It is foundational to what we do as conferences, unions, divisions and the general conference.

# How critical is role of local church treasurer?

- If churches do not generate resources, we will cease to exist.

# How critical is role of local church treasurer?

- The least amount of resources is placed where the greatest risk lies.



# How critical is role of local church treasurer?

- If the local church play a vital role in how we do mission, how much resources does your organization allocate to these entities?
  - Training? How often? How do you deal with new treasurers coming on board? Should they have a global view of the finances of the church?
  - Is the local church/school treasury team seen as an extension of your department or are they seen as separate entities?

# Examples of how to make treasurers a part of the conference team

- Have them take ownership (buy in) where possible
  - Development of tithe envelopes
  - Using them as mentors of new treasurers
  - Use them to train other treasurers
  - At conference wide events, use them as counters of offerings

# Examples of how to make treasurers a part of the conference team

- Have them take ownership (buy in) where possible
  - Software selection
  - Avoid, as much as possible, a top down approach
  - BE AVAILABLE and ACCESSIBLE. After a while, they will stop calling.
  - Reward them...Christmas card, a small gift for those who had all their reports in on time, a sympathy card when you hear of death in the family and show up if you can, etc.

## In Summary...

- One of the best things you can do for your organization is to build a relationship with your church and school treasurer
- Train them
- Empower them

## In Summary...

- The nuts and bolts of working with church and school treasurers are not the technical stuff
- Avoid using your treasurer simply as a tithe and tuition collector
- Every thing we do must be done within the context of our mission

# North American Division

## Treasurers' Orientation

*Presented by Seth T Bardu  
at the Columbia Union Conference*