

One Page Summary of
The Adequacy of Church Financial Reporting in Eastern Washington
In Process Dissertation for Doctor of Business Administration at
Anderson University

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With the growth in nonprofits, an area lacking significant oversight is church financial reporting. Few studies have been conducted in the area of church financial reporting and there is a lack of models that are useful in evaluating financial statements. The dissertation establishes a model to evaluate church financial statements and explores the research topic of whether church financial reporting is adequate in Eastern Washington churches. The dissertation looks at four hypotheses related to church financial reporting:

Ho1: The size of the church will have no relationship to adequate financial reporting.

Ho2: The denominational affiliation of the church will have no relationship to adequate financial reporting.

Ho3: The location (rural or urban) of the church will have no relationship to adequate financial reporting.

Ho4: The amount of experience in accounting of those involved in the financial reporting process will have no relationship to adequate financial reporting.

Unlike previous studies in the area of church financial reporting, this dissertation looks at rural and urban churches and multiple denominational affiliations. A survey was developed and sent to a random sample of Eastern Washington churches. The returned surveys are being analyzed to better understand current accounting practices of the churches and some of the factors that impact the church's ability to prepare adequate financial reports. It is hoped that this will add to an area of accounting that does not have any mandated oversight beyond what a denomination or an individual congregation demands in the way of reporting of finances to interested parties.