

**MAS542 02 Legal and Financial Issues in Ministry 2 hrs/3 units
Online Spring 2009**

Instructor Name	Reverend Joy Wyler
Office Hours	Available for conference calls with appointment
Telephone	Cell: 816-853-2791
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Required Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pastor, Church & Law, Fourth Edition</i>, by Richard R. Hammar. The 4 volume book can be ordered from www.churchlawtoday.com. • <i>Basic Accounting for Churches</i>, by Jack A. Henry, Broadman & Holman Publishers. ISBN 080546145-0 • <i>The Dynamics of Church Finance</i>, by James D. Berkley, Baker Books. ISBN 0-80109105-5
Other Required Reading	Power Point, web resources and articles as included in material
Required Materials	High speed internet connection, Power Point reader and Excel spreadsheet
Recommended Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterworth, E. 2nd edition (1998) <i>Spiritual Economics</i>. Unity Village: Unity House. • Crumroy, Kukawka & Witman. (1998) <i>Church administration and finance manual: Resources for leading the local church</i>. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing • Henry, J. (1994) <i>Basic Accounting for Churches: A turnkey manual</i>. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers • McClintock, K. (2004) <i>Preventing Sexual Abuse in Congregations: A Resource for Leaders</i>. Herndon, Virginia: Alban Institute • Pollock, D. (1995) <i>Business Management in the local church</i>. Chicago: Moody Press.

Course Description

This course examines legal and financial issues in the ministry. Studies will include the ministry's relationship to local, state, and federal statutes, taxes, legal issues arising from the business of the church, as well as issues arising from the practice of ministry. We will study budgets creation, stewardship and fundraising, as well as risk management, prosperity consciousness and ethical considerations.

Content:

- State and federal laws and case law that impacts the financial and operational issues of ministry for the church and the minister
- Resources for church risk management and insurance assessment
- Case scenarios and web resources to facilitate development of individual evaluation and decision making skills
- Financial spreadsheets and budget formats

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of legal principles to case studies regarding liability issues, child protection and sexual harassment.
2. Discuss risk management applied to ministry.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of profit and loss statements, budgets, and ministry financial practices.
4. Articulate his/her own credo of stewardship, prosperity consciousness and fund-raising.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:

MD-4 Demonstrate appropriate knowledge for ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

MD-4 Demonstrate appropriate knowledge for ministry.