

## **Accounting, Financial, and Audit Help for Parishes**

The Audit Team is a group of accounting and financial management experts who provide audit and financial reviews for parishes. The team is overseen by Diocesan Council's Finance Committee.

The Audit Team plans to hold Information sessions this Fall, via Zoom for interested treasurers, bookkeepers, treasurers, wardens, finance committee members, other parish leaders, and clergy to answer questions and address concerns about the thorniest problems parishes face in creating accurate and transparent financial reports.

Audit Team Members will answer questions raised by participants and address topics such as:

- financial management (budgeting / investment management, DIT)
- internal controls & audit guidelines / audit workbook & internal control questionnaire
- bookkeeping / payroll / chart of accounts / reporting / software tools
- credit card authorizations / signatures on checks
- insurance (property, workmen's comp, unemployment ...),
- clergy discretionary funds
- parochial reports / records management

These sessions are expected to last approximately one hour. Please be on the lookout for information about these sessions so that you can be sure to take advantage of the expertise of Audit Team members for the wellbeing of your parish.

In addition to these information sessions, audit workshops will be offered at Gather 23 next Spring for those who had attended these information sessions. Additionally, general financial management question and answer sessions are planned for Gather 23 for those unable to attend this Fall's information sessions.

The Audit Team consists of five members: Joan McDonald, Jim Harding, Eric Miller, John Barnum, and Mark Shipman. Sadly, Eric is moving out of state and will soon no longer be able to serve in this capacity. Eric and the rest of the team have quietly, consistently, faithfully, and selflessly provided professional level auditing for parishes for the last three years. Theirs has truly been a labor of love and is seen as a valuable ministry by many who have benefitted from working with them. Eric will be missed, but the Team wishes him and his wife Godspeed in their new home.

The Audit Team hopes to recruit new members, both to replace Eric and to grow capacity for the number of audits that can be conducted each year going forward.

If you have a background in Accounting or Finance and are interested in joining the Audit Team, please contact Libby House, Diocesan Treasurer ([ehhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:ehhouse@yahoo.com)). Training and an opportunity to shadow seasoned auditors will be provided. This request for new members will be repeated at Diocesan Convention on October 1, 2022.

Please consider taking advantage of these opportunities for help and to serve. It will benefit you and your parish. When finances are accurate, transparent, and accessible, congregations increase in trust, confidence, and commitment.