



Parish Audit Information

To: Clergy in Charge, Wardens, Treasurers, and Vestries

National Canons require all congregations to submit an annual audit to the Bishop's Office no later than September 30th of each year. This audit is required as part of our stewardship of funds given to the Glory of God and your local ministry. It is a report that produces trust by assuring all who give that the funds are handled with the integrity inherent in a religious organization.

The Preliminary Audit Report form is attached, and we are asking each Parish to complete and return it to the Diocesan Office by the last day of August of the year following the audit year. For your convenience the Audit Committee Guide and Audit Procedures List is also attached. These forms are for use by internal audit committees.

The audit process to follow includes five (5) steps:

Step 1: Vestries are asked to determine at their next meetings how they intend to comply with the canonical requirement of completing an audit of the previous year. Outside auditors, accountants or internal audit committees should be appointed at this time, if not done previously.

Step 2: Complete the Preliminary Audit Report and return it to the Diocesan Office by August 15, 2024. This form will advise the Diocesan Office that the Parish has recognized the audit requirement and taken steps to satisfy it. This form is an important part of the audit process and will keep the audit requirement in focus.

Step 3: Complete the audit by September 30, of the year following the audit year. If hiring an outside auditor, you should make him/her aware of the time requirement. If utilizing an internal audit committee, it may be appropriate to ask for a progress report to insure it is on track with the time requirements. If you find the work cannot be completed by this date, advise the Diocesan Office and ask for an extension.

Step 4: The Auditor's Report, together with its recommendations and the annual financial statements are to be presented to the Vestry at a regularly scheduled meeting. Its recommendations should be discussed, and an agreement reached regarding their implementation.

Step 5: The Auditor's Report, including the recommendations, any response to the recommendations, and the Financial Statements, are to be forwarded to the Diocesan Office within 30 days of the audit completion.



Parish Audit Committee Guide

Audits of the Parishes of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon may be performed by an Audit Committee. There should be a minimum of two members of this committee, preferably three. Note that no members of this committee may also be engaged in one of the following roles in the Parish: Clergy person, Treasurer, Parish Administrator, member of the Vestry, or member of the Finance Committee.

Information and Records Necessary to Complete Audit

For Operating, Restricted, Designated, Property and Endowment Funds; for ECW, Altar Guild or any other church-related organization; and for all Clergy Discretionary Funds, the following information is to be provided to the Audit Committee:

1. Reconciled bank statements and cancelled checks, savings passbooks and investment statements for all accounts indicating the activity for December of the prior year, all of the year of audit and January of the subsequent year.
2. List of authorized signatures for all accounts. Copy of bank signature cards for signature specimens.
3. Record of plate collections and corresponding deposits.
4. Description of procedures and control of plate collection.
5. Record of other cash receipts.
6. Paid invoices or other supporting documentation for expenditures in year of audit.
7. Cash receipts and cash disbursements ledgers for all accounts. General ledger for all accounts. Explanation of report preparation if there are no ledgers.
8. Financial reports and supporting documents to be reviewed during audit:
 - a. Copy of prior year audit report.
 - b. Copy of year of audit approved budget.
 - c. Copy of annual financial statements including balance sheet and income Statement.
 - d. Details of any mortgages or other loans, original loan documents, copy of bank or loan statement showing principal due December 31 of the year of audit.
 - e. Evidence of property and liability insurance coverage. Any building appraisals or contents inventory prepared in the last five years.
 - f. Copies of Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws (if applicable).
 - g. Space use agreements and insurance certificates for regular users of the church property.
 - h. Quarterly IRS, state and local payroll reporting; W-2s and 1099s.
 - i. Vestry Minutes



Episcopal Diocese of
Eastern Oregon

Parish Audit Procedures List

City: _____

Church: _____

Year End Date: _____

Audit Committee Members: (Please list names)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Answer/Date

GENERAL REVIEW	Answer/Date
1. Obtain a copy of prior year audit. Read audit letter paying particular attention to comments and recommendations.	
2. Obtain year-end financial statements.	
3. Obtain and review budget.	
4. Obtain and review Vestry minutes for:	
a. Budget approval.	
b. Clergy housing allowance resolution (Dec. minutes)	
c. Are material expenditures approved?	
d. Comments on extraordinary gifts or bequests.	
5. Are monthly financial statements prepared and included in Vestry minutes?	
6. Compare insurance coverage with property appraisals or stated current values. Does coverage appear sufficient?	
7. If the church is a corporation, review Articles of Incorporation.	
8. Review By-Laws. Have there been any changes?	
9. Is there a current space use agreement and insurance certificate on file for organizations regularly using the church?	
10. Does the financial section of the Parochial Report agree with the Income Statement?	
11. Has a Risk Management inspection been conducted?	
12. Is a church sponsored school located on the property? If so:	
a. Does the school have a federal ID number?	
b. Is the school licensed and/or accredited? If so, by whom?	
c. Is the school audited annually?	
d. What was the date of the most recent fire dept. inspection?	
e. Is there a screening process for teachers?	



ASSET REVIEW	Answer/Date
13. Examine all checking, savings, investment, discretionary, guild, and other church-related organization accounts. Were all accounts included in the audit?	
a. Were accounts in the name of and addressed to the church?	
b. Was the church's federal ID number used for all accounts?	
c. Were bank statements, passbooks, and investments statements provided to show activity for a full year from December of prior year to January of succeeding year?	
d. Were cancelled checks provided for verification of payees, signatures, and endorsements?	
e. Were appropriate records provided for verification of outstanding or voided checks and last check number?	
14. If the preceding year has not been audited, prepare a bank reconciliation for all accounts for the end of that year.	
15. Review bank reconciliations for all accounts as of audit year end.	
16. For guild and other church-related organizations accounts, review accounting records to ensure proper use of funds.	
17. Review restricted contributions to verify compliance with donor restrictions.	
18. Review investment account statements. Trace all withdrawals and verify authorization.	
19. Review petty cash accounts and verify appropriate reconciliation.	
LIABILITY AND FUND BALANCE REVIEW	
20. Are pension payments up to date for clergy and lay employees?	
21. Are clergy pension payments equal to 18% of salary + housing + SECA reimbursement?	
22. Is diocesan assessment paid monthly?	
23. Are payroll taxes paid on time?	
24. Review restricted fund accounts. Are all accounts necessary or could some activity be treated as pass-through?	



CASH RECIEPTS	
25. Review procedures for control of plate collection and deposit.	
26. Review a sample of cash receipt reports and trace totals to financial reports. Do count sheets, deposit records, and cash receipts accounting match? Identify significant discrepancies.	
CASH DISBURSEMENTS	Answer/Date
27. Obtain a list of authorized check signers and test signatures on three months of checks.	
28. Examine 10% of disbursements of \$500 or more and 1% of checks under \$500 to approved vouchers, budget or Vestry approval. Identify check #'s examined and comment.	
29. Examine any checks which lack sufficient support under Step #28 above as to number, date, amount, signature, payee and endorsement. Investigate propriety of checks drawn to cash, payroll, the church, officers and employees.	
PAYROLL	
30. Examine payroll tax returns, W2's and 1099's. Determine that filing requirements have been met and withholding taxes remitted properly.	
a. Did quarterly reporting match year-end reporting?	
b. Was approved housing allowance reported in Box 14 of the W2 form?	
c. Was expense or travel allowance approved by the Vestry and was supporting documentation provided for expenditures?	
d. If not, was allowance reported as taxable income?	
31. Identify those receiving payments in excess of \$600 for the year and match to W2 and 1099 reporting.	
32. Are those working more than 1000 hours covered by workers compensation insurance and receiving lay pension benefits?	
33. Are those working more than 1560 hours a year (30 hours a week) receiving the benefits mentioned in Step #32 plus health insurance coverage?	
DISCRETIONARY FUNDS	
34. Identify all discretionary funds and clergy personnel holding those funds.	
35. For each fund:	
a. Is the fund in the name of the church?	
b. Did a Vestry or Bishop's Committee resolution establish the fund?	



c. Is the church's federal ID number used to identify the bank account?	
d. Did donors specify gift for discretionary fund?	
DISCRETIONARY FUNDS CONT.	Answer/Date
e. Review the Clergy Discretionary Fund policy. Was the policy followed?	
f. Were funds used for personal expenses the IRS would consider taxable?	
g. Were funds used for the purposes for which they were intended?	
AUDIT REPORTING	Date
1. Prepare Audit Committee Report Letter signed by all members. (See attached Audit Report Letter)	
2. Prepare a report of Audit Committee findings and recommendations. (see attached Findings and Recommendations Letter)	
3. Attach a copy of the year-end financial statements to the Audit Report Letter.	
4. Submit copies of the report letter, the finding and recommendations letter and the yearend financial statements to the Vestry and the Diocesan Administrator on or before September 1 st following the year end.	



Episcopal Diocese of
Eastern Oregon

Parish Audit Committee Report Letter

Date _____

To the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of _____

Subject 20__ audit of _____.

We have inspected the statement of financial position of _____
As of December 31, _____, and the related statement of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. Our inspections was made in accordance with the audit guidelines of the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs, and the financial statements are prepared on a basis in accordance with principles adopted by the Episcopal Church and approved by its General Convention except as noted.

We noted the following exceptions, if any:

We have taken steps to see that the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, except as noted above, the financial position of the Congregation at December 31, _____; and that the changes in the net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended are in accordance with the principles authorized by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church on a basis consisted with that of the preceding year.

Our inspection and certificate are not meant to be construed as an audit and opinion rendered by a Certified Public Accountant.

Sincerely,
Members of the Audit Committee

_____, _____, _____



Episcopal Diocese of
Eastern Oregon

AUDIT COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Date _____

To the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of _____

Subject: 20____ Audit of _____

During the course of the above inspection, the following items pertaining to internal control and other operation matters were noted. The first group includes areas of management control where prior year auditor recommendations have not been implemented. The second group includes comments and recommendations of current year auditors.

Areas where prior year auditors recommendations have not been implemented:

Comments and recommendations of current year auditors:

Sincerely,
Members of the Audit Committee

_____ , _____ , _____