

What Does a Controller Do?

A Controller helps ensure leadership can trust the financial information they use to run the ministry.

As a ministry grows, accounting gets more complex: more transactions, departments, systems, staff, and designated or restricted funds. Someone needs to oversee how the entire accounting function works together. **That is the role of a Controller.**

More Than Recording Transactions

Bookkeepers and accounting staff handle the important day-to-day work: recording transactions, processing payments, reconciling accounts, and maintaining records.

The Controller leads the accounting function behind that work, establishing the processes, controls, deadlines, and accountability across revenue, expenses, bank reconciliations, designated and restricted funds, and the month-end close. **The Controller owns the financial statements and reporting to leadership**, and prepares for and leads the annual audit.

Giving Leadership Financial Clarity

A healthy accounting function helps leadership confidently answer:

- ✓ Can we trust our financial statements?
- ✓ How much cash is actually available to spend?
- ✓ Are designated and restricted funds accounted for correctly?
- ✓ Are financial reports arriving consistently and on time?
- ✓ Are we prepared for our annual audit?
- ✓ Are there financial or accounting risks we aren't seeing?

The Controller creates the financial discipline and reporting rhythm needed to answer those questions.

Where Does a Controller Fit?

BOOKKEEPING	Records financial activity.
ACCOUNTING	Organizes and reconciles financial activity.
CONTROLLER	Owns the financial statements and makes sure the accounting function produces reliable financial information.
CFO	Uses financial information to shape financial strategy and major organizational decisions.

Not every growing ministry needs a full-time Controller. But when financial reporting is inconsistent, cash availability is unclear, accounting processes are breaking down, or leadership isn't confident in the numbers, Controller-level leadership may be the missing piece.

Financial reporting your ministry can trust—every month.

Through Lemonade Fractional Solutions, I provide fractional Controller leadership to growing ministries that need a stronger accounting function without adding another full-time executive position.

530.782.8226 · Cheston@AskLemonade.com · AskLemonade.com