

# Financial Coaching – An Overview

**Financial coaching** deals with things like giving, responsible stewarding of God's assets (ref. Psalm 24:1), marriage and money, budgeting and excessive debt. Financial planning involves investing, insurance and retirement planning, to mention a few. Vineyard Columbus does not provide financial planning, just coaching. However, coaching might lay the groundwork for successful planning with financial professionals.

**The goals of coaching** are to assist you in your journey of being a Godly manager (steward) of assets he has entrusted you. Financial stewardship is learning what God says about money and applying Biblical principles to your life. The outcome is wise financial living, generosity, financial peace, and Christian maturity.

**Coaching expectations.** We want to meet you where you are and we will take the time to listen to you, and understand your situation. Therefore, we have a series of questions here and a separate data factfinder, to help us see a more complete picture.

Please expect that financial challenges can take time and effort to resolve. People that engage us for coaching, should expect to meet several times, expend a lot of effort, and a willingness to see underlying issues.

**Financial coaching** is provided by Kent Irwin or one of our volunteers.

**To request financial coaching, please:**

- Complete this Coaching Questionnaire as indicated
- Email to [Kent.Irwin@VineyardColumbus.org](mailto:Kent.Irwin@VineyardColumbus.org)

Soon after receiving this completed, we will contact you to arrange an appointment

## Memo of Understanding

This is the agreement if you want to receive coaching from Vineyard Columbus

*You*

1. **You are responsible** for your own decisions, and not the church or coach.
2. **Commit** to completing your assignment before each meeting.
3. **Reschedule** the appointment if you have a conflict or didn't complete homework.
4. **Are open** to self-evaluation, change, and will not be defensive.
5. **Commit** to do the hard work and completing this process.
6. **By signing** below that you understand our approach and accept disclaimer.

*We commit to provide*

1. **Coaching**, but the church or coach is not your professional financial advisor.
2. **Balanced grace and discipline**; compassion, accountability, and discipleship.
3. **Practical and spiritual** financial coaching.
4. **Confidentiality**: your coach or small group will keep your information private.
5. **No Sales**: your coach or members of your small group will not sell you anything.

*I'm engaging in a financial small group, financial class, or coaching, which is a non-professional financial ministry and program of \_\_\_\_\_ (church). I understand that the financial instruction received (a) will be provided by either a paid staff member or volunteer who has been trained to serve in the ministry or program, but who is not otherwise trained, licensed, or in any way formally qualified or authorized as a financial planner, investment advisor, accountant, or lawyer, and (b) will offer neither legal, tax, investment, nor professional financial advice. In consideration of this being provided to me by \_\_\_\_\_, I (for myself and my heirs, assigns, representatives, and other successors-in-interest (collectively, the "Releasors") hereby waive and release \_\_\_\_\_ (church), the author, respective directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents from all liability for any injury, damage, or loss incurred or suffered by any Releasor resulting directly or indirectly from the Services.*

### Signatures

Client: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you are requesting financial coaching, you are to be commended for following biblical counsel. "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed (Proverbs 15:22)."*

## Basic Information

Your Name _____			
Cell Phone _____		Email _____	
Age: _____	Employer: _____	Occupation: _____	Full-time _____ Part-time _____
Work _____	Unemploy _____	Under-employ _____	Disabled _____ Retired _____
2 jobs _____	ed _____		
Single <input type="checkbox"/>	Engaged <input type="checkbox"/>	Married <input type="checkbox"/>	Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/>
Spouse Name _____			
Cell Phone _____		Email _____	
Age: _____	Employer: _____	Occupation: _____	Full-time _____ Part-time _____
Times I or we can meet? Morning <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon <input type="checkbox"/> Early Eve <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends <input type="checkbox"/>			
Church Information Member <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Small Group <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor <input type="checkbox"/>			
Where you referred to us by someone, if so, who and why? _____			
Ages of your children _____			
Expected changes		X	Comment
Do you plan to move in the near future? .....			
Do you plan to change occupations soon? .....			
Are you planning to have children or change marital status? .....			
Do you plan to seek additional education? .....			
Do you expect any other changes that may impact you financially? ..			

## Financial Overview

	<b>X</b>
<i>Single needs:</i> I have one or a few very specific simple items to cover in one meeting	
<i>Many needs:</i> I have many questions and areas to discuss, may need a few meetings	
<i>Crisis:</i> My finances are in crisis or very stressful. I may be depending upon debt or assistance from others or government, and want a plan to financial health	
<i>Marriage and money:</i> Money is a big contributor to the health of our marriage, and we are seeking counsel to help us resolve issues and work together	
<i>Abundance discussion:</i> I have more than enough assets or income, but would like to discuss good stewardship, giving and or spiritual issues	
<b>Current financial situation</b>	
<b>1</b> Surplus: Income exceeds expenses e.g., good savings, low debt, living off of assets	
<b>2</b> Solid: Income exceeds expenses e.g., good savings/investments, no/low debt	
<b>3</b> Stable: Income exceeds expenses e.g., okay investments, maybe high debt	
<b>4</b> Marginal: Expenses near exceed income e.g., may have some savings and high debt	
<b>5</b> Struggling: Expenses exceeding earned e.g., depleting reserves, and may have high debt	
<b>6</b> Crisis: No income/expenses far above income e.g., high debt	

### Things to bring, discuss and goals

If you have a questions about specific items, please bring any detailed documents that may be helpful to the appointment, such as credit report if questions about debt, or mortgage statement if home loan questions. **Please come prepared with pen and paper, to take notes, including your next steps following the meeting.**

Why do you want to meet, what are your goals, what do you need help with? **Please describe.** It is important that you think and pray about this, and be very brief and specific.

If no precise meeting goals or maybe feeling led to meet with a pastor to discuss finances, **please describe.**


### Current Challenges

Lost employment		Spouses not seeing eye-to-eye about money	
Debt or behind on mortgage payments		Disability or health issues	
Self-employed business not doing well		Financial stress, no plan, making little progress	
Resolve issues of money and faith		Doing well, but want coaching about good stewardship	
Large coming expense, circle: house repair, wedding, child's college, car repair, divorce, health care, old age, or			

### Debt Information (if seeking coaching about your debt)

Creditors are now calling/mailling me		
Checking account overdraw charges		
Collectors/attorneys calling/mailling		
Have declared bankruptcy or considered it		<i>If yes, indicate year, type, and if discharged?</i>
I've sought assistance from a Credit Co.		
I've contacted creditors		<i>..or just ignoring them all together?</i>
Behind on mortgage payments		Talked to my lender, housing agency, doing loan mod.
Tax Debt?		Federal, state, local & business taxes owed from prior years

### Recent things I've done to improve my financial condition

Education, change, management	Yes? X	Increased cash flow	Yes? X
Studied financial issues on my own		Refinanced Home, lowered real estate tax	
Talked to a career specialist		Changed tax withholding at work	
Attended financial class		Shopped lower insurance rates	
Sought counsel from financial advisors		Deferred or consolidated loans (circle)	
Some attempt to create a budget		Used 401(k) funds or Decreased 401(k) (circle)	
Accumulated more savings or investment		Became more frugal, cut back on cell or cable	
Debt has gone down		Downsized home or auto	
Sold assets or personal property		Obtained a better job	
Increased or decreased giving (circle)		Obtained second job or overtime	

**My personal finance skills and habits. My spouse or I...**

Pay bills online		
Use computerized budgeting software		Quicken, Mint.com
Can use Spreadsheet software		e.g., Excel
Dedicate time each week to pay bills		If married, indicate who pays

**Financial Information**

*Please only provide 'best-efforts' estimate of income, expenses, debt, taxes and assets below. Complete accuracy is not required. This is just a starting place for financial coaching. If you prefer to complete this financial info in Excel, please download the Financial Data Sheets at [www.vineyardcolumbus.org/ministries/financial-ministry/resources](http://www.vineyardcolumbus.org/ministries/financial-ministry/resources)*

estimated MONTHLY INCOME & EXPENSES		MONTHLY
<b>A. Total Monthly Income</b> from all sources (earnings, social security, disability, alimony, child-support, rental income etc.). This is NET after taxes (the amount that you receive to spend)		\$
<b>B. Expenses and bills</b> paid monthly (if quarterly, semi-ann, or ann, divide by 3 or 6 or 12)		
Tithe and giving of all types		
Savings account deposit that is not spent by the end of the month		
Automotive: including total for payment, insurance, and gas		
Utilities: Cell phone, cable, internet, electric, gas, and water		
Insurance that is not payroll deducted, not auto, not homeowner's if with mortgage escrow		
Food that you buy to cook at home, including dry goods (e.g., paper products) from grocery		
Entertainment: movies, hobbies, tobacco, and subscriptions print, music, movies		
Food on the go: fast food, restaurant, bar, coffee shop and mini-market		
Health: vitamins, pharmacy, gym, doctor, dentist, eye, and chiropractor		
Housing: rent or mortgage, condo dues and storage unit		
Pet(s): pet food store, grooming, and veterinarian		
Personal expenses: hair, nails, massage, and laundry		
Shopping: clothing, sporting goods, department store, household items and gifts		
Other, miscellaneous, ATM cash, and other spending		
ALL monthly debt payments for credit cards, student loans, and medical debt etc.		
Self Employed: Business expenses and taxes		
<b>B. Total Expenses</b>		
<b>C. Net Monthly Results:</b> Total Income (A.) minus Total Expenses (B): $A - B = C$		
<b>estimated ASSETS AND DEBT</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
Total amount of debt if you were to pay-off balances, e.g., non-mortgage, credit cards, student		
Home mortgage payoff amount		
Total amount of automotive loans if you were to pay-off the balances today		
Total value of savings, CDs, and money market accounts		
Total value of retirement accounts e.g., IRA, 401k, 403b, and annuities		
Total value of other: investments but NOT savings and NOT retirement		
Total value of sellable collectables, such as coins, guns, and valuables		
<b>TAX INFO est.</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Self-employed – are you paying the quarterly estimate?		
Tax Refunds the amount you anticipate receiving or received prior year	\$	