

The General Council on Finance and Administration

Nashville, TN

August 18, 2014

When an individual attends a spiritual denomination, if required or by choice, he or she will donate his or her money to the church in the form of Tithes or Offerings. On the other hand, it is an immense possibility that every church does not require an individual to give money to them in the form of Tithes and Offerings. If an individual does decide to give money, then that money is collected, recorded, and sent to a much larger, corporate organization. My internship for the summer of 2014 was located in Nashville, TN within a company called The General Council on Finance and Administration for the United Methodist church or the acronym, GCFA. GCFA is one out of many organizations that are classified as financial and managerial institutions that regulate and monitor the monies for all the churches, particularly the churches of Tennessee and North America. GCFA monitors and manages the monies for all of the United Methodist churches of Tennessee and then decides what to formerly do with the money. The company can store the money into hedge funds or investment accounts or disperse the money into multiple domestic or overseas ministries. The organization has various departments within itself with multiple responsibilities, but I had the pleasure of being placed within the Marketing and Communications department as well as within a new and successful

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Sponsorship department.

The first department that I was placed upon entering the office building of GCFA was Marketing and Communications. While working within the Marketing and Communications department, my primary job was to help analyze, research, and record errors on the current website for the company. My responsibilities were to fix the broken computer links on the current website, analyze and update, if needed, all 500 plus documents on the website, and complete multiple training sessions with a partnering company called UMCom to assist in the launch of a brand new global website that included both of the latter materials. The first couple of weeks were easy; however, I quickly realized that collecting documents from numerous departments, attending multiple meetings, and learning how to create a website was more than I could bear. Fortunately, I was persistent and managed to fix all broken links, update all 500 plus documents, and transfer them all onto the new global website: [www.umc.org/GCFA](http://www.umc.org/GCFA).

The final and most interesting department that I had the pleasure of being a part of this summer was Sponsorship. The 2013 Executive Board, headed by Mr. Bobby Smith, created the sponsorship department last year. The reason for its birth is that GCFA needed to find a new way to raise money not originating from Tithes and Offerings. The business plan was simple: Find

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companies that are willing to sign and agree to a partnership contract that will enable them to give GCFA a 3.0-5.0 percent rebate on every single item that their customers purchase. My goal was to increase the number of partners from 10 to 20. I researched companies and their guidelines to discover if they properly met the standards of GCFA's spiritual, corporate bylaws. I created multiple excel documents ranging from 200-400 potential sponsoring companies that passed all the bylaws standards and, in summation, recorded them within an archival database. I am proud to say that the Sponsorship department has earned the company 750,000 dollars and counting.

All in all, I had a very busy summer full of networking, self-improvement, and professionalism. I try to look at the highlights of my summer which will not only add to my resume but add to my personal skill set: creating a website, research and evaluation of companies in intense detail, and the ability to network and connect with individuals in a more professional setting. My career aspiration is to become a Corporate Lawyer, and I, by having this opportunity, was able to get an even clearer look at the corporate world on the administrative and managerial perspective. Even though the work was extensive and complex at its darkest hours, I have gained a better knowledge of the bigger picture behind spiritual denominations.