



# MISSIONS & MINISTRY



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Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association  
[www.blueriverkansascity.org](http://www.blueriverkansascity.org)

## Property Tax Seminar Helps BR-KC Churches



On February 26th, 50 pastors and lay leaders came together at **Connection Point Church** in Raytown because they had one thing in common. They were all concerned about property taxes! Over the past few years, Jackson County has

begun to change its exemption process, resulting in some of our churches being caught unaware. As a response to recent requests from our churches for information and help, BR-KC hosted a property tax seminar bringing in an area attorney that specializes in property law. James Freeman III, with the firm of Swanson Bernard, led the three-hour seminar going over important property tax topics such as Classifications, Exemptions, Reassessment Processes, Dispute and Appeal Process, Application Tutorials and more!

**“You don’t have a ‘right’ to an exemption. The government has to give it to you. You have to prove to the County that an exemption is deserved.”**

*~ James Freeman III*

BR-KC would like to express our gratitude to James Freeman for leading the seminar and sharing with us his wealth of knowledge. The following information is a summary of the points covered in the seminar.

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## Real Property

Real Property can be reassessed upon transfer of ownership or effective January 1st of each odd-numbered year. The days of churches real estate remaining tax exempt in perpetuity without periodic renewal applications are gone. But just because your church doesn't receive notice of a tax-exempt status change, doesn't mean there wasn't one. Everyone has a responsibility to be proactive and check the Jackson County website to confirm that your church's status is still considered exempt. This should be done before April 30th of each year.



When an exempt organization purchases real property that is taxable, an application for tax exempt status should be filed immediately. But be aware that the tax-exempt status won't change until January 1st of the following year. The church will owe taxes for the portion of the year from purchase date to December 31st.

When requesting an exemption for real property, either for the first time or for a renewal, here are some keys to remember:

- The property must be actually and regularly used for the exempt purpose and that exempt use must be the "primary and inherent use" of the property, not just a secondary or incidental use;
- The property must be owned and operated on a not-for-profit basis; and
- The dominant, or main use of the property must be for the benefit of an indefinite number of people and must directly or indirectly benefit society.

There are multiple classifications of property and exemptions. Occasionally real property gets misclassified. This usually arises when land is vacant or when improved properties are in a state of transition. It is important to remember that classification is based upon actual use and the assessor does not have to classify all land and property owned by a church the same. If your church building sits on acreage, the County may decide that the exempt classification applies only to the building and immediate yard but not for surrounding land. This problem

arises when vacant land or property does not clearly fall within residential, agricultural or commercial use, OR there is no evidence that the entire property is being "actually and regularly used for the exempt purposes". This has happened to a few churches in our own Association. If you don't agree with how your property is classified, there is a dispute and appeals process.

Additionally, a few of our churches have been caught off-guard when the County asks for an Exemption Declaration to be completed and the deadline is missed. This results in tax being assessed on the property for the entire year. In many cases, this can mean tens of thousands of dollars. There is an appeal process for this as well but the best chance at success would be to get legal representation.

## Personal Property

Personal Property is assessed on January 1st of each year. This means that whatever business personal property a church owns on January 1 you will be assessed for the entire year. Business personal property is property that has an expected useful life greater than a year and has not been fully depreciated. If your church has a Personal Property Tax Exemption, which usually covers vehicles, Jackson County has begun asking for information on the remaining equipment and furnishings. It is advisable that you contact your CPA if you have questions on how to fill this out. Please be aware that the deadline to submit the exemption declaration is before March 1st of each year.

James did mention that other counties haven't been as aggressive in changing tax-exempt status as Jackson County. However, we encourage all our churches to be vigilant, regardless of where you are located.

Visit <https://www.jacksongov.org/150/Assessment> for more information. If your church missed the seminar but you would like to receive copies of the presentation and notes or have additional questions, please contact the BR-KC office.



# Collegiate Ministry Update

**Travis Hamm**  
Collegiate Impact

On February 21-24, ministry leaders and students from all around Missouri attended the Great Commission Conference. It was a wonderful conference focused on sharing the gospel of Jesus and learning how we can continuously make disciples

During the conference, Collegiate Impact had a booth to share about our ministry and raise awareness about the numerous college campuses in Kansas City that are still in need of hearing the gospel of Christ. We set up a map to show just how many campuses are in the Kansas City area. Each pin represents an individual who attended the Great Commission Conference that is a current student, alum, or ministry leader on these campuses. We were so excited to continue connecting with individuals who have or are currently investing in the students at these colleges.

One of the highlights at the conference was our partners dinner on Saturday night. Collegiate Impact invited leaders and students from various ministries across the Kansas City area. Individuals at our dinner represented six of our Partnering Churches as well as three additional churches who are interested in partnering with our ministry. The evening was spent conversing with one another and building Kingdom partnerships. We praise God for this network of churches we have connected with and pray that He continues to bless these ministries efforts in reaching college students with the gospel of Christ!



**Carson Conover**  
Longview & Blue River

I'm writing this update from St. Louis, MO. I'm on spring break with 6 students from Blue River and Longview Community Colleges. We've spent the last two days working alongside another team of college students from Texas to serve the Church at Affton. This church was replanted 3 years ago and we're helping them update their facility to prepare for Easter. Currently, they use their facility every week to host Celebrate Recovery as well as ministries to refugees and those recently out of prison. They'll soon partner with several local churches to host a joint Good Friday service. Additionally, we were invited to visit a local Mosque near the church to participate in a conversation about Christianity and Islam. The pastor of the Church at Affton has befriended the Imam and is actively sharing Christ with him.

Over the next two days, we'll be doing some contact work and evangelistic outreach at the University of Missouri St. Louis and East Central College in hopes of helping local ministers and churches launch new works on campuses that don't currently have a baptist collegiate presence.

We've spent spring break in St. Louis the past two years. Each year it proves to be a valuable experience for students to help them stretch their faith by doing ministry that requires them to step out of their comfort zone. It changes their perspective on what it might look like to do ministry once they come back home.

Please pray for us—for Dillon, Daniel, Samori, Rachel, Angela, and Emma. Thank you!

Impact's Partner Dinner

## news & events

### APRIL

April 7 - Semi-Annual Meeting  
5pm @ **FBC Raymore**

April 12 - Revitalization Cohort  
10am @ **Church at Three Trails**

April 19 - Good Friday, Office Closed

April 30 - Williams-Farmer  
Preaching Fellowship  
9am -3pm @ **South Haven**

Visit <https://blueriverkansascity.org/calendar> for more details on events

### MAY

May 2 - Urban Pastor's Prayer  
Lunch  
noon @ **Mt. Nebo**

May 9 - Pastor's Prayer Lunch  
noon @ **Raintree Community**

May 10 - Revitalization Cohort  
10am @ **Church at Three Trails**

May 23 - Pastor's Prayer Lunch  
noon @ **Carlisle**

May 16 - Pastor's Prayer Lunch  
noon @ **FBC Peculiar**

May 27 - Memorial Day, Office  
Closed



College students on spring break from Missouri and Texas visiting with an Imam at a Bosnian Mosque in Affton, MO talking about Islam and Christianity

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# Spring Semi- Annual Meeting

Return to: 806 W. Main Street, Greenwood, MO 64034

Periodical

Sunday April 7th  
5pm - 8pm

FBC Raymore  
116 S. Washington

Our Semi-Annual Meeting has a different look this year. Not only will we be taking care of the business of the Association, hearing ministry updates and spending time in worship, but we will also hear from Richard Marks, PhD. Dr. Rick is the Vice President of Live the Life Ministries in Jacksonville, Florida. In addition to being a Licensed Professional Counselor, Dr. Rick is also an ordained minister. Dr. Rick focuses on strengthening marriages and families and bringing healing to wounded hearts and relationships. Dr. Rick will spend time with us woven throughout our evening talking about relationships and mental health. Plus you won't want to miss the Taco Bar!

## Our Speaker



Wayne Geiger

Wayne Geiger is the pastor of First Baptist Church of Grain Valley and the former morning host of radio stations KLJC and 88.5. Wayne has served as a preaching pastor for almost two decades. He has earned degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Calvary Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Educational Ministry degree from MBTS. In addition to seminary degrees, Geiger earned a MA in Speech Communications from the University of Central Missouri. Geiger has taught courses in communication at various colleges and presently teaches Public Speaking at Johnson County Community College.

## Williams-Farmer Preaching Fellowship

TIME: 9AM—3PM

DATE: April 30, 2019

South Haven Baptist Church  
Belton, MO

REGISTER NOW AT

<https://wfpf2019.eventbrite.com>

Join BR-KC and Wayne Geiger as he shares insights into

- The power of purpose
- A biblical and practical understanding of the power of sermon and lesson preparation
- An overview of the power and purpose of sermon outlines
- Learn basic delivery skills
- Preach without notes

For more info visit  
[www.blueriver-kansacity.org](http://www.blueriver-kansacity.org)  
or call 816-623-5360  
Lunch will be provided.