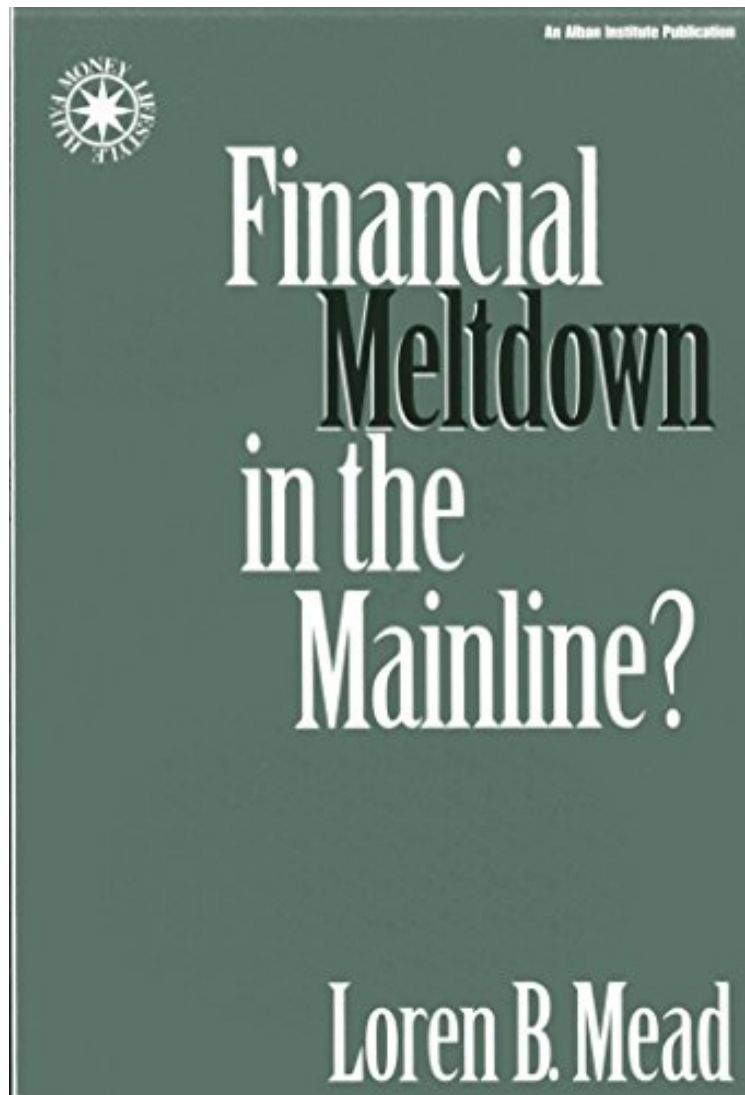


(Free and download) Financial Meltdown in the Mainline? (Money Faith and Leadership)

Financial Meltdown in the Mainline? (Money Faith and Leadership)

Loren B. Mead

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Loren B. Mead : Financial Meltdown in the Mainline? (Money Faith and Leadership) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Financial Meltdown in the Mainline? (Money Faith and Leadership):

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Voice That Must Be HeardBy Donald S. Meador"Financial Meltdown in the Mainline?" was written about 10 years ago. Loren Mead, founder of the Alban Institute, applies more than 20 years of working with churches across denominations to this book. He claims that the issue of church finance came up in the writing of each of his previous books, but that he did not directly address the issue in any of them. He directly address church finances in this book. More than that, he says what needs to be said without sugarcoating the

truth. He looks at the financial crisis present in every denomination - churches, denominations, seminaries are all suffering. The cause - Christians are not giving money as they should, nor are Christian leaders speaking accurately about the depth of the crisis. Mead backs these claims up with hard data. I must admit, the first six chapters were pretty depressing. Mead confirmed many of the suspicions I developed during my first two years serving as a church administrator. Underlying the financial crisis, Mead claims, is a spiritual crisis. In short, Christians are serving money rather than God. And Christian ministers are serving people rather than God (i.e., they do not speak the truth for fear of the reaction of their congregation). Mead is a strong advocate of endowments in the face of this financial crisis. He offers practical guidelines for endowment management. Every Christian minister and lay person should read this book. Perhaps the strength with which Mead paints the picture will bring the truth to light in a way that will draw out godly giving from all Christians.

Intentionally provocative, Alban founder and former president Loren Mead's dynamic work sets out dramatic and compelling challenges for today's churches. Mead chose the word "meltdown"-a strong term, indeed-very carefully and consciously. His clarion call urges congregations to direct attention to their dwindling financial resources and their unreliable fiscal practices, and to take major action now-or face disaster in the future. Mead addresses changing church giving patterns; the inconsistent ways congregations keep financial records; the lack of coordinated short- and long-range planning; the need for knowledge of sound financial techniques such as accounting for inflation; an over-reliance on "restructuring" to fix problems; and lack of defensive planning for operational costs.

"I commend this book to all church leaders." -- The Rev. Dr. Richard L. Hamm, General Minister and President, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada
About the Author Loren B. Mead, an Episcopal priest, founded the Alban Institute in 1974. Since his retirement as Alban president in 1993, he has continued to consult with congregations, lecture, and write. He is also the author of *The Once and Future Church, Transforming Congregations for the Future*, and--his latest title--*A Change of Pastors...and How it Affects Change in the Congregation*.