Nelson Zarfas: Business Manager

Baptist Network Northwest / Northwest Baptist Home Mission

Nelson Zarfas joined Baptist Network Northwest as Business Manager in November 2016. He took over the position from Mr. David Thompson when David retired after 17 years of excellent and faithful stewardship of the financial operations of Baptist Network Northwest, and especially the management of the Revolving Fund. Nelson has continued this tradition of good stewardship of the resources God has provided and of furthering the financial assistance to our Northwest churches and our church planting ministries.

Nelson has a long history within our fellowship. His father was a professor at Corban University and, prior to that, the pastor of a GARBC church in San Pablo, California. He has been a member of Bethany Baptist Church in Salem, Oregon, since his youth. He is currently the Treasurer at Bethany, a position he has served in for many years, as well as having served as Chairman of the Deacon Board for several years. His professional career has been in management at Nordstrom for 10 years, and 22 years as the General Manager and Director of Sales & Marketing for Church Art Works, a Christian graphic design & apparel firm. The experience gained as a manager in both a small and large business, along with many years serving as a church Treasurer, have prepared him well for this position in terms of business expertise and relationships developed over many years of being involved in our Northwest fellowship.

Nelson accepted Christ as Savior at a young age and has grown up in the church. He met his wife, Ellen, while both were attending Corban University—Western Baptist College at the time (BS in Psychology & Business Administration). They married a year after graduation and have raised their three children in Salem. All are now married: Michelle and Rob live in Oregon with their families, and Colleen lives in Annapolis, Maryland, with her husband and young son. Ellen's career has been in the area of accounting and coaching volleyball. She retired in January 2025 from her position as Assistant VP for Finance & Controller at Corban University. She has also been involved in many children's and women's ministry positions at Bethany Baptist Church.