

# Church Management Software

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## Services

Ministry and the landscape of worship are shifting and reforming faster than at any other time in our history. Through their church activities, congregants want to feel fulfillment and a sense of belonging with God and other God loving people. In addition to their higher calling, Clergy must face the challenges of managing staff, information, fiscal and other resources. It is often difficult to stay on course - under the full impact - of the role of leadership and communication in a growing church.

Fortunately, there are Church Management Consulting firms that specialize in providing custom software and consulting services to help Clergy, the board, congregants, and staff to optimize all aspects of church management, including communications, outreach ministry, operations, finance, and accounting, allowing all to function more productively. Newly recruited, highly skilled talents often depend on the use of technology. Clergy and staff save time from manually intensive processes to enable them to concentrate on more important initiatives.

**Frequently, the belief is that technology and religion don't mix. Church leadership can hire specialists to assist Clergy and their organization to grow by developing customized software to aid in deepening spiritual relationships and meet the needs of ministries today and for years to come.** Custom software firms model ministry and operational processes to develop solutions that work naturally in church environment. These custom software solutions allow Clergy easier access to information related to all levels of operation and ministry, including congregant profiles, fiscal and physical assets.

There are a select group of firms with expertise in partnering with churches to develop unique solutions that fully support religious and operational functions. Clergy and staff are guided in their understanding of more efficient approaches to:

Increase access to information

Improve planning across the board

Identify opportunities to strengthen relationship with congregants through interactive communication

Eliminate manually intensive paper processes

Conduct fiscal planning and budgeting

Collect/Share information with multiple campuses

**With Web-based software, no programming knowledge is necessary, and secure access is available through any Internet connection.**

## **New Dimensions in Deepening Relationships**

**Every religious based organization is defined by its ability to communicate with its congregants in a manner that deepens the spiritual relationship.** Churches are faced with projecting their messages and outreach beyond the traditional customs within the church culture. Church Management Software consulting groups help Clergy expand and drive their ministry with interactive programs and communication on demand in a number of ways.

Recognizing that strategic ministry planning is deeply theological, it is important to understand church culture and its unique needs. Consulting firms help church leadership discover methods in planning and operation that integrate smoothly with the organization. A consulting group can help expand and drive ministry with interactive programs and communication such as:

1. Web-based video and podcasts for download – Publish links of church services and special guest speakers	2. Volunteer ministry management – Online enrollment, feedback/reports, discussion groups, dedicated web pages, audience-specific messages and announcements, and so forth
3. Online workshops and classes – Enhance participation and learning with discussion groups/forums, bible study, book discussion groups and similar activities	4. Clergy profile and blogs – Publish blogs from Sunday services or special topics and invite online feedback
5. Web collaboration – eFellowship sharing among users such as children, youth and adults in a safe virtual environment for spiritual bonding and insights	6. Build behavior profiles – Accurately and consistently provide spiritual programs to groups by interest level, age, marital status, gender, or other criteria
7. Dynamic email – Email groups or individuals based on ministry, event participation, blog feedback, web access, or downloads on demand	8. Tracking and reporting – Access information immediately on each ministry, enrollment, giving, feedback forums, budget, suppliers, campus assets

**Church leadership can eliminate the challenges and limitations Clergy and staff face in accessing information, coordinating groups, and managing operations.** Further, they will be able to offer more programs, services and opportunities to deepen congregant's spiritual relationships.

## **Fully Customized Solution**

Assessment is an effective way to discover the information needs and plans for growth of any ministry. Based on information provided by Clergy and staff, **customized, scalable solutions are designed to meet the needs of ministries and operations.** Working closely together both parties develop flexible solutions that fit not only church goals and plans, but also their established culture and organizational structure; installing solutions that extend beyond the limitations of off-the-shelf software packages. An experienced firm builds solutions that can include existing and/or customized software written to specifications.

This robust approach successfully delivers more complete application and integration services with increased functionality, manageability, flexibility and scalability; providing the technical expertise to translate vision, initiatives and operational needs into solutions that achieve greater accomplishments in less time. There are several keys to identifying a Church Management Software firm with uncommon level of success:

1. Uniquely focused dedicated team of professionals whose primary area of expertise is working with churches
2. Exceptional quality control and testing methodologies
3. Software developers with cutting edge skills in software customization for churches
4. Microsoft/Novel approved software technology that forms a backbone easily integrated with other systems
5. Unsurpassed technical support from personnel with experience working with churches

Today, integrating information and dynamic interactive communication over a church's network are extremely powerful tools in reducing costs, building congregant relationships and growing membership. **Congregants have a desire to use the convenience of the Web to expand their spiritual community in ways that already exist in their personal and professional lives. Secure online gated communities extend their physical presence through blogs, profile pages, forums and other fellowship interactions.** There are service options to provide ongoing support for growth and changing needs.

## **Training & Reporting**

Caring for congregants' religious needs is at the core of every church's function. The availability of Clergy to foster relationships and meet spiritual needs significantly impact membership growth. Clergy must strike a balance between serving the needs of congregants as well as attend to the administrative needs of office. These practical, Web-based user-friendly solutions require no programming knowledge, and users can easily develop the skills they need to access and use the system.

Excellent training is vital to the success of any Church Management System. Securing a good Web-based software system includes a **pledge to provide training to client satisfaction for every member on the church team, based on security access**. Training gives each user the skills they need to understand and use the system to acquire operational and ministry information leading to greater performance potential. Further, as part of the support package, when Clergy and staff changes occur, training is available to new personnel. With Web-based software technical support is only a phone call away.

Customized reports are key features of the services available with easy-to-use data entry and inquiry screens. Clergy and staff get information whenever and however they need it. Choose information that spans departments and ministries according to roles, function, programs and much more. Users view information according to security access provisions. Example: Congregants feel a greater sense of satisfaction when they complete a profile page including their skills, talents, passions and interests so they can select the appropriate serving opportunities, classes and forms of giving, further contributing to their church relationship and spiritual growth. **Customized templates simplify the reporting process. Church leaders see simple, immediate reports on giving, outreach programs and expenses which help guide decisions about ministry, membership and growth.**

### **Streamlining Administrative Processes**

**More and more, church leaders are looking to Church Management Software to streamline access to information, automate certain aspects of ministry and reduce administrative demands.** Lack of information and communication can create disharmony in directions and relations within entire ministries. Lack of technology detracts from communication, information management and operations. Good communication technology enhances ministry messages with interactive options to boost spiritual relationships. Church Management Consulting groups have expertise in creating, developing and maintaining a system that promotes a strong and successful church. It all starts with collecting information, creating viable plans and making recommendations that fully support goals and outreach programs.

Recommendations include automation and reporting practices that free-up valuable man hours throughout the church. Whether it is in asset management, data repository, supply, or cost reporting custom software firms bolster church infrastructure in many areas:

1. Information input
2. Management processes
3. Output/Distribution
4. Storage/Archive of information
5. Secure data hosting

Improve accountability with organization-wide transparency and data consistency. Leverage solutions designed to work together across ministries and administrative groups. Church leadership and staff not only have the ability to easy-to-use web interface technology they can access anywhere; also they acquire a virtual Custom Software Department with prompt customer support at a cost lower than comparable products. Technology and religion do mix and church leadership should embrace new methods in ministry and operation.