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**MISSING TECHNOLOGY IN THE
CHURCH**

Introduction

- A harsh reality
- The church got caught with its technology pants down
- Unable to deliver the basics
 - Unlearned
 - Unskilled
 - Unfit
- We were, literally, unprepared



Presenter – Dedra Preston

- Member of the West Virginia and East Tennessee Council (District #23).
- Recent Past President (Superintendent) of the WVETN Council Christian Education Association.
- Currently elected to serve as Vice President of the WVETN Council Christian Education Association.
- Member of Grace Temple Church Eternal Life Center, Johnson City, TN, District Elder Mark A. Redd, Pastor
- Young Adult Sunday School Teacher
- Council and Church Web Master
- Almost 30 years in the IT industry working in various capacities as operator, support, consultant, analyst.
- Currently employed as an Integration Engineer.

Session Focus

- Explore Technology in the church
- Identify and examine common technology gaps.
 - Hardware Gaps
 - Software Gaps
 - Resource Gaps
 - Training Gaps
- Tips for developing a technology plan.
- Examine the business of the church
 - Administrative Technology
 - Teaching and Technology
 - Social Media and Technology
- Tools to advance technology in your Ministry

Is Your Church a Business?

Not a Business

- Soul saving station
- Spiritual Hospital
- Deliverance Station
- Healing Station
- Preparation Ground for the Rapture



Is a Business

- Income
- Expenses
- Acquire Assets
- Budget
- Subject to Creditors

What do churches have in place?

OFFICE

- Computer for the Pastor
- Computer for the clerk/secretary
- Copier
- Membership Records
- Baptism Records
- Counseling Records
- Financial Records

CLASSROOM

- Televisions
- Computers
- Presentation Software
- Video Presentation
- Zoom/Google Meet

SOCIAL

- Website
- Facebook
- YouTube
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Church App

Start with what you know and then go up from there.

-Roberta Flack



Explore Technology in the Church

- Develop a technology plan.
- The technology plan should support the church's Mission and Vision statement.
- The plan should identify your needs (equipment, resources and training), determine how you will fulfil those needs and determine a budget for and means to fund the endeavor.
- Develop a plan that works in stages and build on it.
- Examine your plan and your progress at least once a year.
- Budget for training – Educate yourself and train others.



Technology Gaps HARDWARE GAPS

- Does your church have multiple computers?
- Are your computers networked?
 - Hard wired
 - Wireless
- Do you have multi-purpose printing?
- Do you have smart TV's in classrooms?
- Do you have cameras?
 - Do you use tablets for capturing video?



Technology Gaps SOFTWARE GAPS



- Does your church have a basic office software package?
- Do you track membership?
- Does your pastor keep counseling notes electronically?
- Do you track church financials on spreadsheets? With QuickBooks?
- Do you use PowerPoint or similar presentation software in the classroom?
- Does your church have a web presence? Does your church have a Facebook page? Instagram Page? YouTube Channel? Or Twitter Account?
- If you broadcast LIVE on-line, do you use multiple cameras? Do you have a digital mixer? Do you have sufficient and proper lighting?
- Do you have a church app that keeps your church community connected?
- Do you display scriptures and the words to worship songs on screen during your service?
- Electronic tools that aid the physically challenged?

Technology Gaps RESOURCE GAPS

- Do you really know your membership? Do you have members with technical aptitude? Are any of your members in the Information Technology industry?
- Is your church willing to invest in your members who have a desire to develop their technology skills?
- Is your church willing to mentor a young person with technical aptitude?
- Has your church considered developing a team that works together to coordinate your technology plan and vision?



Technology Gaps

TRAINING GAPS

- **Free Classes at your local library**
 - **Workshops at your local college or university**
- **Access to free training at your secular employment**
 - **Free On-line training**
- **YouTube video training**
 - **Limited Certification Programs**
- **Courses at your local Learning Centers (i.e., New Horizons Computer Learning Centers)**
 - **Technology Boot Camps**



Tips for developing a technology plan

- First, define your technology goals with the end in mind.
 - What do you want to achieve?
 - How do you want to achieve it?
- Set reasonable milestones.
 - Remember, your plan will continue to evolve.
 - Technology is a moving target.
 - Emphasize to your board that technology decisions must be timely.
- Progress with small achievable steps
- Keep an inventory of hardware and software
 - Manage life cycle and warranty information.
 - Keep license information in a safe place.



Administrative Technology

- **Administrative**

- Microsoft Office
- Open Office
- Libre Office

- **Membership Tracking**

- Membership Plus
- Servant Keeper
- Fellowship One

- **Financial**

- Spreadsheets
- Quickbooks
- Membership Plus

Teaching and Technology

Classroom (Sunday School)

- PowerPoint
- Other presentation software
- Electronic references
 - You Version
 - Blue Letter Bible
 - Biblical History Subscriptions
 - Electronic Bible Trivia Software
 - Electronic Maps
- Electronic Whiteboards
- Interactive Homework

On-line (Bible Study)

- Choose your platform(s)
 - Facebook
 - YouTube
 - Instagram
- Where possible incorporate presentations in your online media.
- Transmit handouts to participants
- Establish an organized way to receive on-line interaction.

The Social Church and Technology

Social

- Website creators
- Facebook
- YouTube
- Instagram

Communication

- Zoom
- Google Meet
- Church App
- Simple Text
- Constant Contact

The Importance of Data

- What good is technology if you don't maximize its full potential?
- Many of us will have data at our fingertips or the potential to gather data and never use it.
- Keep points of data you should be able to pull a moment's notice:
 - Membership numbers
 - Number of baptisms in the last month/year
 - Number of new members in the last month/year
 - Income Statement
 - Budget
 - # of students in Sunday School (average)
 - # in attendance at Bible Class weekly (average)
 - How many people view your service on-line weekly
 - Track visitors electronically



The Importance of Data (Cont'd)

- Data is “no good” if it is inaccurate.
- Gather meaningful data:
 - Attendance should be taken in each Sunday school class and recorded
 - Have your ushers take attendance on Sunday Morning and have some one count your numbers at your weekly Bible Class.*
 - Remember to count those who are viewing “LIVE” on your social media platforms.
 - Provide multiple platforms for giving outside of cash and check (Givelify, Paypal, CashApp, Venmo, Zelle, etc.)
 - Track how many visitors come weekly, monthly and yearly.
 - Track how many visitors are converted to membership.



DATA

Examine the business of the church

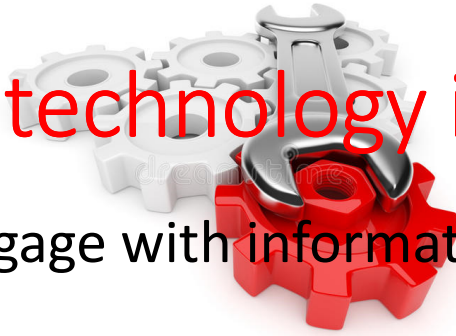
Spiritual Business

- What spiritual business can be enhanced by technology?
 - Your Sunday School Class
 - Your Worship Service
 - Electronic Counseling Notes
- What can improve the effectiveness of ministry?
 - Electronically aiding your ministers to be more effective
 - Social Media commercials

Secular Business

- What secular business can be enhanced by technology?
 - Automate as many office functions as possible.
- What can improve the business of your church?
 - Automate reporting to your leadership.

Tools to advance technology in your Ministry



- Challenge yourself to engage with information that keeps you abreast of current technology.
 - Periodicals
 - News Segments
 - Technology Forums
- Work with small goals; each step should be a progressive move.
- Don't under purchase/don't over purchase
- Data is important. Protect it and back it up.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.
- Always explore multiple options and avoid doing quick fixes.
- Develop a continuing education plan within your technology plan.

Measuring Your Technology

A 3D white figure is running towards a signpost. The signpost has a sign that says "SUCCESS". The figure is running on a path that leads towards the signpost. The signpost is a black pole with a sign that says "SUCCESS" in white capital letters. The figure is a simple white sphere with a white body, running towards the signpost. The background is white.

SUCCESS

- Calculate the amount of time you spend on non-ministry tasks that can be enhanced by technology before you start implementing your new technology plan.
- Calculate the amount of time you spend on non-ministry tasks that can be enhanced by technology after you start implementing your new technology plan.
- With each new enhancement, measure the time savings and possibly the money savings.
- Tracking your ministry growth will also measure how well the plan is working.

CONTACT



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Technology Strand Resources



<https://www.wvetncouncil.org/technology-strand-resources>

Evaluation



Please provide your feedback.





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