

**Title: An Effective Solution for Church Web Sites**

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Summary: The last thing you want is an ineffective web site. Your church story and connect with your intended audience. To do this, you must determine what tools and resources they will need.

You also need to know what to look for when evaluating possible platforms. Have a clear set of requirements ready as you look for your solution for

There are a lot of options when building your church web site and selecting a ministry is a vital step in creating and maintaining an effective site. Not the same and you need to answer some questions about your ministry and your product and establish the best practices for producing and updating your

Each of the following will weigh differently in your decision, but they all matter. Does it produce semantically correct content?

This is a basic requirement for a technically good web site - if the pages don't display properly, your readers will lose patience and even avoid your site. This set and widely known for over a decade - there is little excuse to not have validation tests.

Is the product actively supported?

In this day and age, lots of products get replaced by new versions and so are short-lived. You will be investing a great deal of time in producing your site for your readership. You don't want to be stuck with a product that is no longer supported. What level of expertise is required?

Keep in mind the people you will have maintaining the site - they are more important. Improvements are being made that make web updates within reach of any browser and compose email.

Can you manage your work flow?

Every organization has processes they follow for publishing information, and most likely already has a process for collecting, submitting, reviewing, and publishing information. Your web site should support the same process.

Cost = Time + Money

Being a good steward of your resources is a sound Christian principle. Take into account the amount of time and effort required to maintain and update your web site, the money spent on the products used. A product that costs you little, or no, time or hours trying to get it to do what you need it to do. Likewise, spending a lot of money doesn't necessarily guarantee reduced time and effort.

Will it work out of the box and will it grow with you?

Initially, your church web site may be quite simple, with just a few pages online community and also serving as a training experience for your new experience grows and you expand your vision, you will be looking for more site. Does the product you selected have the capability to expand and meet need to abandon it for another and have to put effort into moving all your platform?

#### Groups and Users

We have already identified at least 2 different groups that will be accessing and your web team. Each group will have different tasks they wish to accomplish, read, others will submit new information, still others will edit and publish. Be sure your selected platform provides you with an easy method to manage access levels for each of those groups. You may even decide content can be - how easy it is to assign content to specific groups?

Can your site be given its own visual identity?

Your church or ministry already has developed its own style and character. reflect that. Look for a solution that gives you a choice of themes or templates and feel of your site. If you have someone available that is a competent look at how difficult it would be to produce your own theme for the site.

#### The Benefits of Content Management Systems

There are many open source CMS solutions that have a solid foundation and communities. Open source projects are quite reasonably priced (most are skill sets. They also offer the ability to manage and update your site from relying on a desktop application

They offer a variety of features - from basic web sites to complex intranets for large organizations

Each CMS provides a wide array of themes (or skins or templates) to create your site. Designers often offer custom design options if you wish to have design. There is always the possibility of creating your own design, too.

The main purpose of a CMS application is to manage content - and content tailored for various users and groups.

Administration of the web site is also controlled through web access, and assigned to different groups so your work flow can be followed.

Each CMS varies in its ability to produce completely valid content because contributors for functionality and presentation. Careful selection and evaluation produce a site that does meet web standards.

The out-of-the-box experience of each system also varies, but most allow and begin working on your content from the start. Many also offer 'bundles' specific types of sites and functionality - as single downloadable packages

I have been quite satisfied with XOOPS as the best Christian CMS (including [Resource](#)) and I recommend you give it serious consideration as the platform also thinking their new [WordPress](#) will become another excellent choice as an open source CMS.