

Which Church Management System Should You Buy?

Your Guide to Making a Decision and Getting Buy-In from Church Leadership





Deciding on a cloud-based church management platform is not an easy task. You have to consider the needs of your staff and your congregation, while also balancing budgets and expectations. Adding this process to your already overbooked schedule managing the day-to-day church operations, counseling church members, and coordinating small groups and children's ministry leaves little time to comparison shop. To complicate matters, most church management systems (ChMS) offer similar features such as database management, online giving, background checks, and church check-in.

So, how do you decide? This eBook simplifies and expedites your search by outlining the **top benefits provided by the best ChMS brands**, arming you with vital information to get buy-in from church leadership for the ChMS your ministry really needs.

Read and share this guide to understand which platform features can best benefit your church and provide the best return on investment.

3 Benefits Your ChMS Should Provide

1 Easy Startup

A Good ChMS Provides...

Whether you're new to online ministry management or switching from an existing ChMS, a smooth transition is absolutely necessary. You shouldn't have to work for weeks or months manually migrating the birthdays, baptism dates, phone numbers, and addresses for each congregation member. Look for a web-based church management platform that is easy to use and provides features for a seamless transition of existing records and data without headaches.

A Better ChMS Provides...

With a well-designed and comprehensive ChMS, you can finally get rid of all those different software subscriptions you're using to send emails and manage payroll. Platforms should be able to provide the full church management ecosystem — everything from congregation management and online giving to background checks and church finances.

The Best ChMS Provides...

The very best brands provide superior support teams to ensure a smooth platform transition (or first-time setup!). Customer Service should also be around after the sale to help you maximize technology to grow your ministry.

What to Look For:

- Import and update membership and giving data from Excel (.CSV)
- Export membership and giving data to Excel (.CSV) – useful for mail-merge, calling tree programs, and custom reports

What to Look For:

- Ability to update congregation, attendance, and giving data in one place to view trends
- Third-party integrations with platforms like MailChimp, Constant Contact, and Protect My Ministry

What to Look For:

- Easy-to-find contact information for live support staff
- Online resources such as troubleshooting tips and training videos

2 Straightforward Pricing

A Good ChMS Provides...

Some platforms try to hide their pricing. This not only leads to confusion but also frustration when surprise (but mandatory) add-ons pop up later in the shopping process. You should look for a ChMS that provides a straightforward pricing model.

A Better ChMS Provides...

A great company knows where value is: in the support it provides to customers. Be sure you find a ChMS that is backed up by helpful customer service. In fact, seven out of 10 U.S. consumers say they've spent more money to do business with a company that delivers great service ([American Express 2017 Customer Service Barometer](#)).

The Best ChMS Provides...

While add-ons shouldn't be hidden, being able to customize your purchase is definitely a must. No two churches have the exact same needs, so additional features can make for an even more modern, effective, and engaging church experience for your membership.

Add-on features like MinistryOne's mobile app ensure your congregation can take advantage of all your church software has to offer — right from their mobile device, including:

- Prayer requests
- Event registration and payment
- Live video streaming
- Urgent weather alerts
- Giving for missions, holidays, and more

What to Look For:

- No startup fees or contracts
- No hidden add-ons
- Regular product updates, at no additional charge

What to Look For:

- In-app support for quick, specific responses to troubleshoot technical problems
- Free consulting services to help customers find new ways to take advantage of platform features



3 Try Before You Buy

A Good ChMS Provides...

You aren't expected to buy a house without seeing it. Most people won't even buy a pair of shoes without slipping them on for a stroll around the store. Why should your church management platform be any different?

A good ChMS lets you try the technology before committing to buy it.

A Better ChMS Provides...

To preserve the best features for paying clients, some companies like to provide a watered-down version of their technology that removes key features. But how are you supposed to get an accurate idea of what the software can do for you if you can't fully utilize it?

The Best ChMS Provides...

If you decide the technology is right for you, all existing information should seamlessly transfer to the full version, ensuring no new members, key information, financial records, or equipment and room reservations are lost. In other words, you should not have to duplicate your migration when the trial period is up. Trialing a fully supported ChMS should be more like "one month's free rent" instead of just a house tour.

What to Look For:

- A video-based demonstration that gives you a tour of the platform
- Case studies that show how similar organizations have used the platform

What to Look For:

- Access to fully-operational account management and other features
- Trial guidance to help you get started adding member data, financials, etc.

What to Look For:

- Access to customer support during the trial phase so you can make mistakes, learn tips and tricks, and even train your staff before the official migration
- Migration support to help ensure there's no downtime while transitioning between technologies



Try Simple Church CRM
for free for 60 days.



What These Benefits Mean for Your Church

ROI

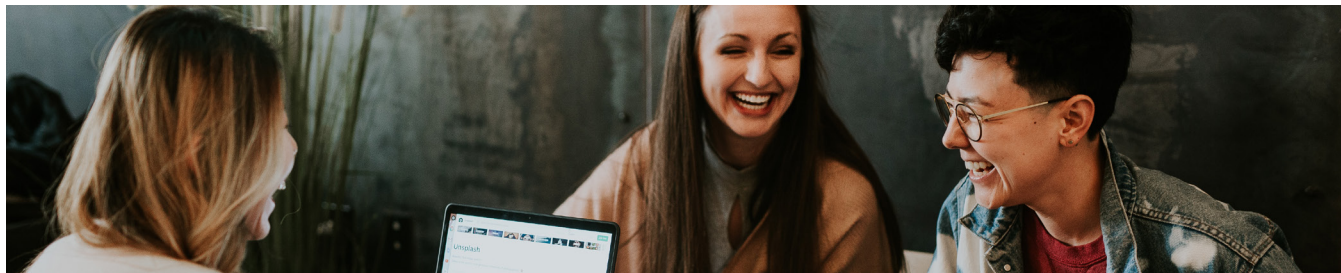
In only a few weeks, you'll be able to see how a ChMS helps you foster growth, increase engagement, and improve outreach with your church community.

An effective ChMS will provide ROI not only in terms of money invested but also time. The web-based church management technology should help you streamline administrative tasks and let you access (from any device) real-time data on each member of your church database, including staff and churchgoers.

How a ChMS Saves Time and Money

- **Member Profiles**
Assign tags and groups to individuals to quickly update information or send emails or texts based on group membership
- **Event Registration**
Members can register, pay for, and check into events through the same system, providing you with real time analytics on interest and attendance
- **Giving Reports**
Online giving provides additional giving options that remind and motivate members while reports show donation trends

How do you really save money? Pick a platform that doesn't require a bunch of extra add-ons to get the job done.



Key Features of a Comprehensive Church Management System



No Need to Reinvest When Your Church Grows

Your goal is to build your ministry to spread the word of God. You shouldn't have to worry about upgrading your ChMS every time you reach your growth goals.

The best ChMS platforms are simple enough for small and medium-sized churches, but also have the complex features needed for fast-growing and large ministries. Platforms like Simple Church CRM keep things simple but also offer robust, usable features like:

- Updating contacts from your iPhone
- Seeing a history of interactions with each member
- Search capabilities based on age, gender, or groups

Service That Pays for Itself

As a church leader, your time is spent serving others. Each minute spent on the phone with customer service is a minute away from your congregation and your community. Simple Church CRM is a platform that also functions as a service. We serve the Lord by doing well by our customers. Our team is available to help train and troubleshoot. Most importantly, they can provide advice on how to make the most of Simple Church CRM to manage your congregation and grow your ministry.



You can run your ministry better with church management software. And once you've made the decision to invest in a ChMS, the biggest lift is narrowing your options to decide which platform is best for your church. A lot of companies focus on what their platforms do, but not necessarily what they do for you. They expect you to do the hard work figuring out how those features can help your church.

Know someone at your church who should read this?

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Want to try a ChMS with a proven ROI?

[Sign Up for Simple Church](#)

SimpleChurch CRM

SimpleChurch CRM helps churches better serve their existing and prospective church families by providing tools to track and understand engagement. It also empowers church leaders to be more effective by freeing up their focus, revealing actionable insights, and ensuring no members fall through the cracks.