

Information Technology Ministry – Vision for the Future

Minutes of 9/24/21 meeting

Persent:

Rich Elterich - Chair

Joe Bologitz

Tom Keener

Sue Vitez

Existing information sources:

Bring it Home

Live stream equipment @StP

Daily E-mails

Mailings

UPG Website

St John's Website

Active calendar

Till we Meet Again

Zoom Meetings

Change in information technology is an evolutionary process not revolutionary. Moving to high tech solutions must not eliminate the low tech and no tech solutions

Investigate extended "Bring it Home technologies to other uses than just the download of the service. . The worship, which is now the YouTube video available on the website beginning at 8 AM on Sunday is the only current use. However, the devices have three icons: the Technology Team expects to make it the host for the live stream in the near future; The website home page; and the Chrome browser.

Look into the possibility of phone trees and phone call network(s), answering machine message(s) to provide information to people who find it difficult to obtain it with their current sources.

Inform people of the close caption features in the YouTube broadcast of the services. There is also a play back speed option under settings, which will slow down the closed captions if it moves too fast for the user

Publish ideas and solutions for use of existing equipment such as downloading the bulletin to a tablet for use during the service, rather than taking a paper copy

Maintain a list of suggested updates to current usage and common problems encountered and how to solve these problems. Publish a list of frequently asked questions. Refer suggestions and questions to the already existing Technology Team.

For commonly used meeting rooms, provide floor plans and routing information to get to assigned room. Doors to use, and routes to the room. For buildings with remote entry capabilities have someone at the controls before the meeting. If doors are left open inform people when they will be closed and alternate ways to contact people such as a cell phone. or church phones that can be heard from the room.

All three churches have some form of listening devices for the hard of hearing. Make sure the existing equipment can connect to personal hearing devices that work of the worshipper.

Conduct a survey to evaluate capabilities. What equipment/ sources are available and being used now by person. What information are you looking for that you're not getting?

Remind people to be in contact with a church office if they have changes in their information capabilities, such as e-mail address additions or changes, or are now coming to in person and therefore no longer need mailings. For the most part the office should be handling any questions on information distribution and either providing an answer to it or referring it to someone who may have that information.

There has been some talk on interactive responses in during the service. We need to clarify how this information will be forwarded to the correct source for the answer, and whether there should be a time in the service to respond. The questions or responses could be in a written or emailed form for answer later. The information or answer could be either be a response to the person asking or a published in a FAQ format. Perhaps a weekly Q&A published that could be included with the weekly mailing or publish somewhere on the website.

There has been some talk of having online service supplements which would be available to people using electronic devices during the service. This would probably require a local wi-fi not connected to the internet at all. where the information could be issued to the user. However there has also been some talk about making it possible for worshipers to contribute through the PayPal site. This information could also be assembled and published for download to a device brought to the service.

Have a monitor in the service with close captioning or a monitor with other supplemental information. These two might just be limited visibility (i.e. a small screen at one point in the sanctuary) for those wanting to see it. These options should be provided without interfering with the traditional service worshipers as much as possible. (This might require people to find different seating in the sanctuary)

The three congregations have vast histories that should be explored, and information made available to those who might be interested in it. Perhaps some should be digitized thus allowing searches to be done. Presently there are a limited number of people that might be able to direct you to the information that you are looking for.

It was also suggested that we may wish to hire a consulting group, which has worked with other congregations to explore the many capabilities that technology has to offer to enhance both our

worship experiences as well as our day to day interactions within the community of faith. This will probably be more useful later in the process if recommended by the Technology Team.