

ANSR POLL

Technology and the Ministry of the Church Winter 2006 – Pastors

PART I

First would you please think about the future ministry of the church you serve. Some uses of technology that are not possible now may be very important for your church five years from now. On the other hand, some current uses of technology may not be important at all for you in five years. Below is a list of ways some churches are using, or thinking about using technology. First, would you please indicate at the left of each statement whether you currently make this use of technology. Then at the right please indicate how important you think that use of technology will be for your church's ministry over the next five years. Use either a pen or a pencil to fill in the most appropriate oval.

Currently Using*	Level of Importance for the Future**				
	Not at all	Not very	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
46% An informative church web site for potential visitors	3%	6%	21%	41%	30%
10% Having your sermons available on the church's website	7%	24%	44%	20%	5%
74% E-mail communication with members of the congregation	1%	5%	21%	40%	34%
58% Presentation software for worship services	3%	5%	18%	39%	35%
87% Showing DVDs or videos	0%	3%	21%	50%	26%
53% Using technology to connect with missionaries	1%	5%	37%	37%	20%
85% Doing research on the internet	1%	5%	17%	36%	41%
72% Study materials available on video or computer software	1%	5%	28%	41%	25%
5% Streaming video on the church's website	8%	18%	41%	27%	7%
81% Staying in touch with mentors and colleagues by e-mail	1%	7%	27%	35%	31%
23% E-mail based threaded discussions between committee meetings	6%	15%	43%	24%	12%
2% Internet discussion forums for members hosted by the church	9%	28%	45%	13%	5%
17% Church newsletter delivered by e-mail	3%	11%	36%	37%	15%
43% Making it easy electronically for people to make prayer requests, etc. known	2%	7%	22%	42%	27%
22% Tracking attendance electronically	5%	13%	41%	30%	12%
8% Using surveillance cameras for building & property security	7%	22%	37%	24%	10%
8% Using surveillance cameras in nursery & children's areas for protection	5%	10%	32%	36%	17%
3% Providing an option of electronic payment of tithes and offerings	16%	23%	35%	19%	7%
42% Making information about church activities available on the web	1%	5%	25%	40%	29%
27% Using the internet for my continuing education	3%	10%	30%	38%	19%
7% Self-paced instruction for adults via computer or the internet	6%	19%	43%	24%	9%
72% Using the computer for donor records	2%	6%	19%	35%	39%
64% Using the computer for membership records	1%	6%	19%	41%	34%
56% Using the computer for the church's and smaller groups' calendars	2%	6%	23%	41%	27%
68% Using technology to enhance worship services	1%	3%	13%	34%	48%
2% Podcasting	15%	28%	37%	14%	5%

*Percentages are of those responding to the item.

**Throughout this report percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

The winter 2006 ANSR Poll was mailed January 3rd to senior pastors (689) of a random sample of Nazarene congregations in the United States and Canada. A follow up postcard was mailed about ten days later. By March 7, 2006, responses had been received from 320 (46%) pastors. The response from pastors was generally representative of the distribution of Nazarene churches by size and region. While this level of response is good, some caution should be exercised in generalizing results. With a sample response of this size, the margin of error is within plus or minus 6%.

Are there other uses of technology that you believe will be important for your church over the next five years?

Other technology uses volunteered:

Simulcast of major conferences, etc.

I believe it will help reach those that a traditional church cannot.

Worship music – computer MIDI files, DVD Music, DVD recording of service

Camera's for live broadcasting

PART II

There is no doubt a great deal of variety in the technology that is being used by Nazarene churches. This variety may result from the diversity in needs and resources. For example, as the church gets larger, it becomes more difficult to see, hear, and relate to each other so technology may become more necessary in order to accomplish what smaller churches do without any need for technology. In this section would you please help us understand how technology is currently being used in the church you serve. We want to get a feel for what is being used in order to better respond with encouragement and resources.

1. Which of the following technologies are currently being used in the church you serve?

(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages are of everyone who responded to this item.)

- 91% Telephone
- 86% Answering machine
- 89% Sound system
- 83% Videos
- 47% Overhead transparencies
- 87% Photocopy machine
- 59% Electronic keyboard
- 84% Computer
- 62% Projection system
- 57% Presentation software
- 26% Special lighting effects
- 82% DVDs
- 83% CDs
- 5% Telephone broadcast (dialer system)

2. Do you – or designated staff or volunteers – have access to a computer(s) that can be used for church purposes?

(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages are of everyone who responded to the survey.)

- 2% No
- 74% Yes, the church owns a computer(s).
- 22% Yes, we can use a member's computer for the work of the church.
- 61% Yes, I have a computer that can be used for the work of the church.

2a. If you – or designated staff or volunteers – have access to a computer for church use, please indicate how the computer is used.

(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages are of everyone who responded to this item. Numbers in parentheses are the number indicating that they use the specified software.)

- 91% Word Processing (*Word 185; Word Perfect 34; Works 11; etc.*)
- 58% Member records (*Excel 24; Word 21; Access 13; Membership 9; Servant Keeper 9; etc.*)
- 80% Financial records (*Nazarene Treasury System 65; Excel 24; Quicken 23; Quick Books 22; etc.*)
- 71% Financial reports for donors (*Nazarene Treasury System 68; Excel 17; etc.*)
- 70% Donor records (*Nazarene Treasury System 66; Excel 17; Quick Books 10; Quicken 8; etc.*)
- 3% Online giving (*Nazarene Treasury System 1; Servant Keeper 2; Power Church 1; Logos 1*)
- 57% Church calendar (*Outlook 22; Publisher 21; Word 16, etc.*)
- 20% Church Management (*Servant Keeper 5; Excel 4; CDM 3; Power Church 3; Word 3; etc.*)
- 25% Pastoral care/prospect management (*Excel 16; Word 11; Access 5; Power Church 4; Servant Keeper 4; etc.*)
- 67% Worship presentations (*PowerPoint 96; Easy Worship 18; Media Shout 12; Song Show 9; etc.*)

3. How would you describe the church's use of e-mail?

(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages are of everyone who responded to the survey.)

- 13% The church does not have access to e-mail.
- 18% Actually, we rarely use e-mail.
- 23% We have a congregational e-mail account.
- 13% We send our newsletter out by e-mail.
- 35% We use e-mail to send announcements of coming events.
- 73% We use e-mail to keep in touch with the district and/or general church.
- 40% We use e-mail to make people aware of prayer requests (for our prayer chain).
- 19% We use e-mail to contact visitors.

The 15% who marked "Other" volunteered uses like:

Communication with staff, webmaster, leadership

Pastor's devotional thoughts - weekly

Send minutes of committee meetings to members

Some members use email to communicate to the pastor. Pastor uses email to communicate with leadership team

Meetings - net meetings

Meetings (Board) Announcements & Polls

4. How would you describe the church's web site?

(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages are of everyone who responded to the survey.)

- 50% We do not have a web site.
- 21% It is a fairly static online brochure about the church.
- 25% It is kept up to date at least monthly.
- 20% It has been a source of some new people.
- 27% It contains useful links to other resources.
- 18% It includes information that draws our own people to it.
- 31% I have visited our web site within the last month.
- 18% We do not do well in maintaining our web site.

The 8% who marked "Other" volunteered descriptions like:

It is new and under construction

Only as part of the district web site

This website has drawn interest - e-mail and attendees

Register for class; photo album of events, directory

4a. If your church has a web site, who is responsible for maintaining it?

(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages are of everyone who responded to this item.)

- 19% I maintain it.
- 21% We have a staff member who maintains it.
- 56% We have a volunteer who maintains it.
- 10% We have a technology team that maintains it.

The 10% who marked "Other" volunteered comments like:

District web master makes updates as notified

Presently working on volunteers to maintain it

We are currently switching to a professional webmaster

5. How would you describe the church's access to the internet?

(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages at left are of everyone who responded to the survey. Percentages of internet access type are of those marking the type of access.)

	<u>Dial up</u>	<u>High speed</u>
11% We do not have internet access		
33% I provide access.	50%	50%
8% A member provides access.	41%	59%
48% The church provides access.	28%	72%
19% The church uses a content filter to control access to inappropriate or objectionable web sites.		

6. How does your church use technology to enhance Sunday School in your church?
(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages are of everyone who responded to the survey.)
- 1% We do not have Sunday School.
 - 35% We do not use technology in our Sunday School.
 - 15% We use email to communicate Sunday School and class ministry needs, concerns, or scheduling
 - 4% We use a Sunday School website (class or church) to communicate and gather information
 - 3% We use the internet for ministry training
 - 27% We use video projectors to supplement Sunday School class lessons via PowerPoint, etc.
 - 23% We use video projectors to supplement leader training via PowerPoint, etc.
 - 35% We use audio or video tapes for teacher training.
 - 41% We use audio or video tapes for in class student learning enhancement.
 - 39% We use CD and DVD for student material delivery.
 - 12% We use digital and/or video cameras to supplement communication.
 - 3% We use an automated phone calling system to remind leaders and Sunday School participants of events or needs.
 - 18% Our teachers use online resources for lesson preparation.

The 1% who marked "Other" volunteered descriptions like:

Use some videos and CDs

We hope to use technology more widely for SS as our people become trained in its use.

PART III

In this part would you please tell us a little about the church.

1. About how many first time visitors to your worship services do you have in an average month?
 Mean = 9%; Standard deviation = 15%; Median = 5%
2. About how many people in your church are really interested in technology use?
 Mean = 37%; Standard deviation = 30%; Median = 25%
3. About how many people currently work with the technology used by your church?
 Mean = 12%; Standard deviation = 16%; Median = 8%
4. How do people in your church feel about your current use of technology?
 - 39% Most people don't really seem to care about this.
 - 2% Most people seem to think we use too much technology.
 - 9% Most people seem to think we use too little technology.
 - 50% Most people seem to think we use just the right amount of technology.
5. When your church makes decisions about technology use, how does that usually take place?
(Some respondents marked more than one response. Percentages are of everyone who responded to this item.)
 - 18% Our decisions about technology are made informally.
 - 37% The church board usually takes the initiative on technology decisions.
 - 11% We have a committee that takes the initiative.
 - 13% An influential member or a few influential members usually take the initiative.
 - 37% I usually take the initiative.

The 6% who marked "Other" volunteered comments like:

It totally depends on the type of technology

Members bring initiative to board seeking action

Members bring initiative to board seeking action

Myself and a few influential members

Leaders of each area

Staff

Pastor, staff, and key leaders take the initiative to use technology, when & where needed as resources are available.

6. Who controls access to technology equipment in your church?
(Some respondents marked more than one response. Percentages are of everyone who responded to this item.)
- 7% We don't have any equipment.
 - 12% The church board has established policies regarding access.
 - 15% We have a technology team that controls access.
 - 16% We have a staff member who controls access.
 - 19% We have a volunteer who controls access.
 - 56% It depends on the type of equipment (different people control different equipment).

The 5% who marked "Other" volunteered descriptions like:

The pastor mostly, since this is largely his own equipment

Pastor controls access to equipment

There were no rules in place. Now I have set standards which the board supports.

PART IV

In this part would you please tell us a little about your personal opinions about and use of technology. First, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1. Videos of nature during praise and worship help me feel closer to God.	8%	34%	44%	9%	4%
2. Video clips help me communicate better when I am preaching.	13%	41%	32%	12%	2%
3. I am worried that technology will replace personal relationships in my church.	4%	12%	23%	48%	13%
4. Technology helps me develop stronger relationships with people in the church.	4%	34%	43%	17%	3%
5. Technology is a distraction from my ministry.	1%	4%	23%	54%	19%
6. I believe our use of technology makes the ministry of our church more effective.	25%	55%	16%	3%	2%

Which word at the right best describes your feeling about the following uses of technology?

	<u>Helpful</u>	<u>Necessary</u>	<u>Apathetic</u>	<u>Unnecessary</u>	<u>Wasteful</u>
7. Using technology to enhance worship	63%	26%	7%	5%	0%
8. Having a church web site	47%	36%	9%	8%	0%
9. Using e-mail to communicate	50%	39%	7%	5%	0%
10. Using technology in the Sunday School	58%	22%	13%	8%	0%

11. How would you describe your use of e-mail in your ministry?

(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages are of everyone who responded to the survey.)

- 15% I rarely if ever use e-mail.
- 58% I use e-mail to keep in touch with members.
- 24% I use e-mail to follow up with visitors.
- 69% I use e-mail to keep in touch with fellow pastors.
- 39% I use e-mail to stay connected to a support person/group/mentor.
- 53% I use e-mail to conduct the business of the church.
- 75% I use e-mail for contact with my district superintendent.
- 50% I use e-mail for contact with the general church.

12. How would you describe your use of the internet for your ministry?

(Respondents were asked to mark all that applied. Percentages are of everyone who responded to the survey.)

- 18% I rarely if ever use the internet.
- 15% I have taken, or am taking courses online.
- 68% I use the internet as a resource in sermon preparation.
- 72% I do research on the internet.

The 7% who marked "Other" volunteered descriptions like:

80% of my sermon work I now do on-line! But again - at home - at my expense

Facilitate online module for course of study

Have, and would, use internet for continuing education!

Obtain district reports; announcements etc.

13. If you use the internet for sermon preparation and resources, what sites have been particularly helpful?

About 100 different sites were volunteered. The most often mentioned with the number of times mentioned were :

<i>sermoncentral.com (59)</i>	<i>google.com (9)</i>	<i>homileticonline.com (6)</i>
<i>preachersmagazine.org (26)</i>	<i>textweek.com (9)</i>	<i>cresourcei.org (5)</i>
<i>BibleGateway.com (15)</i>	<i>preachingtoday.com (8)</i>	<i>esermons.com (5)</i>
<i>pastors.com (13)</i>	<i>nazarenepastor.org (7)</i>	<i>stantoler.org (5)</i>
<i>nazarene.org (10)</i>	<i>sermonillustrations.com (7)</i>	<i>willowcreek.org (5)</i>
<i>sermonspice.com (10)</i>	<i>christianitytoday.com (6)</i>	<i>barna.com (5)</i>

14. Do you receive *New Every Morning* by e-mail from Clergy Development?

60% No, I have no idea what *New Every Morning* is.
9% No, I have chosen not to receive it.
12% Yes, but it has not been very helpful to me.
19% Yes, and it has been very helpful to me.

15. Do you receive *Iron Sharpens Iron* by e-mail from Clergy Development?

63% No, I have no idea what *Iron Sharpens Iron* is.
8% No, I have chosen not to receive it.
9% Yes, but it has not been very helpful to me.
19% Yes, and it has been very helpful to me.

PART V

This final part examines individual settings and characteristics. This information will be used to examine the general impact of various settings and characteristics on technology use. Reports will only summarize responses from the group in order to protect your confidentiality. However, if you would be uncomfortable answering any question, please just leave it blank.

1. What is your age?

1% 30 or younger
13% 31 through 40
27% 41 through 50
38% 51 through 60
21% Over 60

2. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

1% Less than high school
3% High school graduate
10% Some college
4% Vocational school certificate/degree
11% College – Associates degree
30% College – Bachelors degree
41% Masters, Doctorate, or other graduate degree

Is there anything else you would want to say about technology and the ministry of the church?

Examples of the many comments volunteered:

Approval/Appreciation

Technology has been a huge help in my ministry. I will continue to use it to communicate the Gospel!

As our people become more and more accustomed to technology in their everyday life, they will expect it in the church as well.

It is a tool we must properly incorporate to be the best that we can be at the task.

Concern/Caution

Wonderful tools need to be tempered with the personal touches of relationships.

Keep depending on the Holy Spirit's work. Keep it always as a tool only.

Technology should complement and not be overbearing. Just because we can do something doesn't mean we should!

A necessary headache

Training/Resources

How can I learn to use technology in ministry?

It would help to offer district wide computer training and resource ideas of new sites & software.

Cost

I would love to use more equipment, etc.; expense is a major drawback.

No matter how much technology you can afford, it still takes committed, skilled people to make it effective and people like this are hard to come by at times.

Products

Materials coming out of KC in last 5-10 years has increased dramatically in quantity and quality. Great Helps!!

I believe it is important. Coming from a small church with limited resources I appreciate the yearly stewardship series by Stan Toler and other items the General Church puts out. It allows me to use DVDs that I normally could not put together. Thank you.

Church Setting/Culture

It seems that church size would have a huge impact on how this survey is answered.

I agree that the larger a church becomes the more essential effective use of technology becomes.

Our church is older blue collar constituency who do not care much about technology but our leadership knows it is a must for our day if we are going to be effective!

Implementation/Transition

I have been here about a year. The pastor before me still hand wrote his sermons, etc. Over the next 2-3 years I plan to bring this group – slowly into the 20th – then the 21st century!

In our church, we try to be sensitive to the wide variety of “age groups”. The established folks are OK with new stuff as long as we introduce it gradually.

Technology is only valuable in churches that are geared towards it. You should not force people until they are ready. Yes, I can use technology, but if my people are not ready, why push?!

Survey

Could you make these surveys available and compatible with local church to assist the pastor in determining his/her situation in regard to these issues?

One question you could have added to the survey would be cell phone usage of the pastor & members.

Perhaps this poll could have been made available on line.

And you're probably collating these by hand ... Neanderthal! ☺

Thanks!