

Survey of Treasurers on Recommended Church Software 5/12/2009

#	#	Software	Recommen	Comment
1	1	Quick books	Yes	We use Quick Books for not for profits. It has an excellent module for tracking pledges, gifts, etc. A couple of people would need to be trained to use it. The size of your Congregation and things you want to track would be factors to consider. You could contact them for a demo, etc.
2	1	Church Pro	No	DO NOT USE Church Pro. We tried it and it is very difficult to get the reports you want out of the data you enter. The coding structure is not flexible and is hard to add, etc. It is a fund accounting system and does not make sense to anyone who is used to a double entry system.....
3	2	Quick Books	Yes	We are currently using Quickbooks for financial software and ChurchWindows for membership and contributions. Quickbooks is very good business software, but there is a hefty yearly fee to use the payroll module (\$370). It does not seem to know exactly what to do about clergy salary and withholdings so quarterly 941 information it gives you is not quite right. I am considering stopping that payment next year and doing the payroll manually since we only have three employees. When I was treasurer in the '90s I used an Excel spreadsheet that I created for financials and it worked as well as Quickbooks but could not generate the reports that Quickbooks can without a lot of work.
4	1	Church Windows	Yes	Since you are already using ChurchWindows, you know the problems with it. I think it is quite easy to use but I should think there is better software out there some place to track members and contributions.
5	1	Mind Your Own Business	Yes	We use Mind Your Own Business for financials and Church Windows for membership and contributions. I've always wondered if Church Windows is good for financials. Is there a particular reason you are looking to switch out of Church Windows?
6	2	Church Windows	Yes	
7	3	Quick Books	Yes	We use QuickBooks for all financial processes....with the exception of bill payments which are done through our bank's online service
8	4	Quick	Yes	Quickbooks for financials, bill payments, pledge income.
9	1	Excel &	Yes	Excel for stewardship pledge tracking. Also starting to use Google Documents' spreadsheet application that stores and shares spreadsheets.
10	1	Google Documen	Yes	
11	1	Powerchurch Plus	No	Powerchurch Plus for some directory and relational information. Not real happy with this. We are still looking for software that will 1) capture families and individuals information, 2) has capacity for newer personalized communication (mobile phones, email), 3) can hold photographs of families/individuals, and 4) can print out a directory report that brings all of them together. We do a lot of that manually now.
12	5	Quick books &	Yes	We use Quickbooks for our operating needs. For our contribution statements, we use a homegrown Excel application.
13	2	Excel	Yes	
14	1	Quicken	Yes	We use Quicken for our operating needs and Faithful Steward for our parish and pledge database. Quicken is easy, inexpensive and flexible. Faithful Steward is not as flexible as we would like, but it does a good job for us and is relatively inexpensive (around \$200)
15	1	Faithful Steward	No	Ideally, I would like an integrated program, but am happy using the combination.
16	3	Excel	Yes	We are a very small congregation so we use excel spread sheet to track financial activities. We do not use any church software, but would be curious to know what is out there.
17	3	Church Windows	Yes	We use Church Windows and it works well for us.
18	4	Church Windows	No	They are using the software (church windows) that we are using at this time. I must admit we had to refine it to fit our needs. It is a learn as you go process.
19	5	Chruch Windows	No	I can't make a recommendation. We've been on Church Windows for a few years (Quicken prior) and although it isn't perfect it does a nice job on the various funds. Took a bit of a learning curve though. Let me know if you find something better. Church Windows isn't cheap.

- 20    6 Quick Books    No    A small group evaluated several options just to be sure we knew what the possibilities might be, and then took her recommendation to move to Church Management Solutions software. While it was largely designed to get us away from QuickBooks, which has its cumbersome aspects for a church, we also chose to take advantage of others of its integrated modules which eliminate multiple data entry points. This has simplified reporting, mailing and keeping our membership records current and is designed to prevent inconsistent information being stored in different systems, which often plagues organizations with homegrown systems built in software packages that don't synchronize automatically.
- 21    1 Church Management Solutions    Yes    Church Management Solutions allows multiple users to access and use the system simultaneously, and is web based for remote access so they don't need to be tethered to a computer located at the church. This works very well since we use a part time bookkeeper and she can do much of her work at home and only needs to come in once a week to handle the things that have to be done physically at the church. It also allows the clergy access to membership and all other information wherever they are and ensures they all have the same version of the information. I can take a look at any detail from home if I see something in a report that I want to explore further.
- 22    8 Quick Books    Yes    We are using QuickBooks Pro 2008 at our church.
- 23    2 Power Church    No    We are also looking to change our church software. We currently use PowerChurch.
- 24    7 Quick Books    No    Intuit QuickBooks at our church
- 25    1 ACS    Yes    We use the software from ACS Technologies. It does a pretty good job and has a lot of functionality. Can be stand-a-lone or web based. The help line is very good too. [www.acstechnologies.com](http://www.acstechnologies.com)
- 26    2 ACS    Yes    We use ACS. It is pretty intuitive. Plus it can be used to track pledges as well (although I have no idea how that part works, we take segregation of duty pretty seriously and I, as treasurer, have no access to the individual pledge information). It isn't break the bank expensive.
- 27    6 Church Windows    No    We are looking at Church software. We would like any suggestions you have. We currently use Church Windows
- 28    3 ACS    Yes    Our church is seeking qualified candidates for position of Controller. Familiarity with ACS GeneralLedger a plus.

**Summary**

# of Users/Corr	Yes	No
8 Quick Books	6	2
6 Church Windows	3	3
3 ACS	3	
3 Excel	3	
2 Powerchurch		2
1 Church		No
1 Mind Your	Yes	
1 Google Documen	Yes	
1 Quicken	Yes	
1 Faithful Steward		No
1 Church Management	Yes	