

Example Church Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage Policy

1. Purpose

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are increasingly used in writing, design, research, and administrative work. These tools can be helpful but also introduce risks related to accuracy, authorship, security, and trust.

The purpose of this policy is to help [Church Name] use AI tools wisely, ethically, and transparently while protecting people, information, and the church's integrity.

AI may assist ministry work, but human responsibility, discernment, and accountability must always remain primary.

2. Scope

This policy applies to anyone producing content or performing work on behalf of [Church Name], including pastors and staff, ministry leaders and volunteers, and contractors or vendors. It applies whenever AI tools are used for church-related work.

3. What Counts as AI

Artificial intelligence refers to software that generates or analyzes content such as text, images, audio or video, research summaries, or AI features embedded in other software platforms.

Examples include tools like ChatGPT, Claude, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, Canva AI features, and similar systems.

4. General Guidelines

AI tools may assist work but must not replace human judgment, authorship, or responsibility.

Anyone using AI for church work must review and verify all AI-generated content, ensure accuracy and theological faithfulness, and take responsibility for the final result. AI output should always be treated as suggestions rather than authoritative sources.

5. Protection of Sensitive Information

Church members trust their church with personal information, and that trust must be protected.

The following information must never be entered into AI tools, especially cloud-based systems:

- member contact information
- counseling or pastoral care conversations
- prayer requests containing personal details
- giving or financial records
- staff personal or employment information
- internal leadership documents or discussions
- passwords or login credentials

As a general rule: if information should not be posted publicly, it should not be entered into an AI system.

6. AI in Sermons, Teaching, and Worship

Churches should carefully consider how AI may assist writing while preserving genuine human authorship.

Option A – Strict: AI may not be used to write sermons, Bible studies, devotionals, teaching materials, songs, or worship materials.

Option B – Assistive: AI may assist with brainstorming, outlines, or editing, but sermons and lessons must be wholly written by the pastor or teacher.

Option C – Limited Use with Oversight: AI may assist writing in limited ways, but pastors and teachers must review and approve all content and verify theological claims. Use of AI should be disclosed to leadership and the congregation.

7. AI in Research

AI can assist research but should not be relied on as a primary source. Information gathered through AI should always be verified using trusted sources, including Scripture and credible theological materials.

8. Graphics, Photos, and Media

AI may be used for design concepts, sermon series graphics, backgrounds, or technical improvements such as enhancing image or audio quality. Designs should be checked for accuracy and should not contain unintentionally disturbing or inappropriate imagery.

Strict Addition – AI should not be used to create fake photos of real people or ministry activity. Church communications should represent real people and real ministry whenever possible.

9. Oversight of AI Tools

[Church Name] will designate the [Position Title or Group Name] to oversee AI use. They are responsible for approving new tools and addressing questions about appropriate use of AI.

10. Contractors and Vendors

Contractors or vendors producing work for the church should follow the same standards described in this policy, especially regarding authorship, accuracy, and protection of information.

11. Example Transparency Statement

[Church Name] seeks to use new technologies responsibly. AI tools may assist our staff with tasks such as editing, design, or administrative work, but our sermons, teaching, and ministry communications are created and overseen by real people. We do not use AI to create fake images of people or ministry activity and remain committed to honesty and integrity in all communication.

12. Acknowledgment

Individuals who regularly produce content or perform work on behalf of [Church Name] may be asked to review and follow this policy.

Signature: _____

Print: _____

Date: _____