



CHECK ONE, TWO

TOP Ten A/V Questions Answered

As our certified Audio Visual (A/V) staff have traveled to annual conferences and local churches, several common questions have arisen regarding A/V equipment and services. Digital Event Specialist Corey Wills answers questions he is most commonly asked.

1. HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE UPGRADE OUR EQUIPMENT?

Depending on its use and original quality, 5-10 years is the norm. Most often, you know when your equipment needs upgrading. A primary concern should be that the equipment is operating safely and effectively.

2. IS IT OKAY TO BUY "USED" EQUIPMENT?

It depends... Does the equipment come with a warranty? Is it "name brand"? In general, if the equipment is in good shape and has been tested out, is less than three years old, and at a reasonable price, it is ok to be used.

3. HOW MUCH SHOULD WE BUDGET FOR AN A/V SYSTEM?

There are many considerations with thinking about an A/V budget. How big is your space? How many persons are you trying to reach? A general budget is around \$10,000, but it could be more or less depending upon a number of factors. Our GCFA certified A/V specialists can work with most reasonable budgets.

4. MY SENIOR MEMBERS CAN'T HEAR THE PASTOR WHEN THEY SIT IN THE BACK OF OUR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AREA. WHAT CAN WE DO?

You can invest in "fill speakers"- additional speakers that are installed in areas that do not get adequate sound coverage. We can also help you look into hearing assistance devices.

5. DO WE NEED A MIXING CONSOLE? IF YES, SHOULD WE GET A DIGITAL OR ANALOG MIXING CONSOLE?

A mixing console is essential for audio. It can help to adjust and equalize audio signals. You can mix different channels of audio and direct audio to different endpoints. We would recommend digital, but this depends on your current equipment and budget.

6. WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT WHEN BUYING A PROJECTOR FOR OUR SANCTUARY – BRIGHTNESS, RESOLUTION, OR ASPECT RATIO?

Lighting in the room is the most significant factor when looking into a projector. Brightness and Resolution are crucial to helping you deal with your lighting issues. These can all be overwhelming, but GCFA professionals can help guide you in the right direction.

7. FRIENDS AT OTHER CHURCHES USE PROPRESENTER. WHAT IS IT? CAN I STREAM LIVE VIDEO WITH PROPRESENTER 6? ARE THERE OTHER ADVANTAGES TO USING PROPRESENTER?

ProPresenter is a cross-platform (Mac and Windows) worship and presentation software for live events. Originally designed for houses of worship, ProPresenter is now the choice for media presentations for trade shows, corporate events, sporting venues, and ministries all over the world. It is still fairly new to local UMC churches.

You can stream live video with ProPresenter 6. It also has built-in scripture, title captions in the lower thirds, various motion backgrounds and a host of other “cool” items that can make your service stand out, and save you time creating your presentation.

8. WE CAN AFFORD A NEW SYSTEM BUT DO NOT HAVE A DEDICATED STAFF PERSON TO RUN THE EQUIPMENT. CAN YOU TRAIN CHURCH VOLUNTEERS TO RUN OUR AUDIO/VISUAL SYSTEM?

Yes, we can conduct training sessions, who can then help teach others in your congregation.

9. IS GOING "WIRELESS" WORTH THE COST?

It depends on the needs of your church. A vast majority of our churches are moving towards wireless to allow the space to be used for many different functions other than a static set up which is limited by wires.

10. DO I HAVE TO COORDINATE MY AUDIO SYSTEM WITH MY VISUAL SYSTEM?

Yes, you want to have seamless audio, especially with any recording or streaming video. It also lessens the possibilities of technical difficulties during your services and eliminates distractions for your attendees.