

Software for churches

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I use the ACS software for many years – and would recommend it. I deal with the people side of it, and some attendance. It has done just about everything I have asked of it, and is pretty user friendly. As for the financial part, the people that use it seem to be happy with it, and can get the reports they need. As for Customer Service, you sometimes have to wait quite awhile when you call them, but mostly the people are very nice.

I am completing my 14th year and we have used nothing besides ACS, so I cannot compare it to other software. What I can tell you is customer service is great and they value client's enhancement request. A couple of my request have been put into the program. They stay on top of developments from Windows that may affect ACS software. One of the best things they have done in recent years is to be able to log into your computer to "find" the error you called about and fix it. There are areas in the program that are "customizable" to reflect terminology that is used in your church. We are in the process of adding a new program from ACS called Access. This program will allow the church membership to view limited information – phone numbers, email addresses of other church members. It will allow a church member to access their account and make changes which will only take affect after I review and accept the change. I started working on it about two weeks ago as I linked the program to our website. As I was writing this I received a call from ACS support telling me I had an error on a date for a particular person. I am very pleased with ACS and would recommend it to anyone looking for church software.

Church Software is a topic that people can talk about forever. We have been using Power Church since the beginning of this decade and really find it to be inexpensive and quite comprehensive. The upgrades are free; there is a user's group which is helpful. We are only using the surface of what this program can do and find it very user friendly and worth the purchase price.

I use Servant Keeper. It's good for any size congregation. I would jump all over a data base that follows the new UM Church Membership Records Manual.

I've been using Church Windows for 10 years and think it is great. The website is www.churchwindows.com. The small church membership module is less than \$400. The staff is great and could probably tell you how to use 1 module for both churches, unless you have 2 secretaries who each need a database.

I would recommend ServantKeeper software. It has a lower price than most, is VERY user friendly, and has super support. They frequently have free seminars in many areas. Check their website at: www.servantpc.com. Good luck!

I have one that we use called Church community builder. CCB for short. It is web based so it can be accessed from any computer. I'm not sure of the cost, but I know it makes my job easier. thepointega.ccbchurch.com/app/index.php

I attended a training this week on Power Church Plus, a computer program for the office. We have actually been using PowerChurch for 5 or 6 years - after the death of UMIS. The program is great and inexpensive. There are free upgrades quite often and it is very user friendly. We remained in the UMIS world for accounting and plan to convert over soon. Thus the need for training. I attended a two day presentation by Books in Order, Inc. and found it to be the most interesting and valuable computer training I have ever received. The instructors were awesome. Kept everyone on task, provided laptops for use, used AV equipment well, started on time and finished on time. If you are interested in getting some help on this or any other computer program, I would recommend these folks. srees@booksinorder.com is a contact and www.booksinorder.com is the website.

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We use Church Windows here and think it's great! They send updates when needed and their "help" line is always available and willing to help with answers. Great for tracking attendance, birthdates/anniversary, death and just about all reports!

I have only been a church secretary for 1 1/2 years, so I am not familiar with any other church programs other than Church Windows. I take care of the membership records and the mailings only. The membership program does have a quirk or two, but nothing terribly hard or frustrating. For our bulk mailings, it does the labels along with the zip code breakdown for the post office. We can also send e-mails out from the Church Windows system. Our treasurer takes care of the payroll and accounts payable, and our recording secretary takes care of the deposits, so I do not know much about those systems. The Church Windows support is very helpful and usually calls back within the hour that I call.

I've used Church Windows for 4 years and I really like it. The only module we do not use is Scheduling. I find the customer service to be outstanding. I took one of their classes when I started and that was really useful.

I have used Church Windows for years and love it and have always felt it was very user friendly. Professing Members are always listed in the UMC status. If they are shut-ins they can also be listed in the shut-in box and even that can be set for different types of shut-ins. You can also set up different groups to cover shut-ins, etc. The other thing in regards to membership date and termination date, if you have someone listed with a membership date and no termination date and they are a Professing Member the computer will automatically recognize them as such and they should appear on your report. You shouldn't have to even mention a membership date unless you want the number of members who joined in particular time frame. As to reports, I've had a problem or two until I contacted them and they helped me set up my inquiry. I have found the longer I use this product the easier it becomes to use. They have been super every time I've contacted them. Also, have you attended a training seminar? We recently hosted one and you learn a lot from them.