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How the Church AI Stewardship Kit fits together, and where your leadership team should begin.

Working draft v0.2 · 22 October 2026 · For church leadership review

This kit is a free, editable starting point for churches developing AI guidance. It is written for pastors, elders, and ministry leaders, not technologists. Choose the path that fits your church, adapt the language, and put it into practice within 30 days.

WHAT'S IN THE KIT

Document	Use it to	Who it's for
01 AI Decision Guide	Answer "Can I use AI for this?" on one page, with a five-question check and Green / Yellow / Red examples.	Everyone who uses AI for church work
02 Editable Governance Policy	Path A: adopt a formal, leadership-approved policy with an approved-tools register and approval record.	Leadership, policy owner
03 Staff Guidelines	Path B: a one-page alternative for churches not ready for a formal policy.	Staff and key volunteers
04 Leadership Adoption Workbook	Run a 30-minute leadership discussion, record decisions, and follow a 30-day rollout.	Leadership team
05 Twelve Ministry Scenarios	Orient staff with practice cases, a learner worksheet, and a facilitator answer key.	Staff orientation lead

WHAT TO DO FIRST

1. Read the Decision Guide. It takes about five minutes.
2. Choose a governance path: the short Staff Guidelines or the formal Governance Policy.
3. Convene the 30-minute leadership discussion in the workbook.
4. Designate an accountable policy owner and start an approved-tools register.
5. Run the scenarios in a staff orientation. Log unresolved questions and set a review date.

BEFORE YOU ADOPT: REVIEW GATES

These templates are a starting point. Clear each of these reviews before your church adopts any part of the kit.

- **Legal and privacy.** Review appropriate to your jurisdiction and organizational structure.
- **Theological and pastoral.** Review the claims, language, and limits of AI-supported care.

- **Child protection and safeguarding.** Especially recordings and personally identifiable data.
- **Security and vendors.** Review proposed AI services and integrations.
- **Leadership approval.** Replace every bracketed placeholder before anything is published.

SHARING THE KIT WITH YOUR TEAM

Share the Decision Guide and the Scenarios as PDFs so they print and read the same everywhere. Keep the Governance Policy, Staff Guidelines, and Workbook as Word documents so your team can adapt them. Both formats are included.

THE RESEARCH BEHIND IT

The 2026 State of the Church research from Barna Group and Gloo found that 94% of pastors say churches should have a formal AI policy or informal guidelines, yet 79% say their own church has neither. The kit offers both paths because pastors are split on the form: 45% favor a formal policy and 49% prefer informal guidance.

Source: Barna Group, "Pastors Say Churches Need AI Guidelines. Few Have Them." (October 6, 2026), barna.com/research/church-ai-guidelines

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> **QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**
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> This is a working draft, and it improves through use. If you work through the kit with your team, we'd like to hear what helped and what's missing: corey@tektonlegacy.com.
>
> Please leave out names, counseling details, and other confidential information when you write.