House of Worship
How-to Guide

Scalable, professional production technologies for worship facilities of any size.
Transform Your Production System for a Better Worship Experience

Putting together a new production system (or updating an existing system) can seem like a daunting challenge with endless solutions to choose from. Whatever the size of your worship facility, this guide will help you narrow down the choices and select a system that’s right for you, and that can grow as your production needs change. Below are a couple of questions to keep in mind when putting together your shopping list, because it’s just as important to think about tomorrow as it is to think about today.

1) What is my intended production output and audience?
2) What, if any, requirement changes do I expect in the next 24 to 36 months?

Production Needs Today and Tomorrow

If your current production has single screen (or multiple screen/single source) IMAG in HD with no expectation from the ministry to change in the near-term, then all of your focus can be on the solutions that provide the best live produced images for a large format screen with the minimum latency possible. As projection technologies advance, however, the impetus to move beyond 1080i or 720p production becomes more appealing. What would it take to upgrade your current or a planned HD solution to 1080p or beyond?

If your current production has IMAG with a switched output for duplication or archive, there will be additional factors to consider. Depending on the size of the room and the requirements, your production needs could be significantly different. For example, to give your members a more connected feel to the worship leader(s), camera angles are a consideration. Providing more camera angles, particularly wider angle shots, along with one or more cameras dedicated to tight follow shots may be appropriate. In addition, routing requirements could also expand significantly with requirements to record ISO feeds.
Multichannel Productions

Delivering your message beyond your walls is becoming more common. Many worship facilities today are streaming their services across multiple campuses and offering on-demand sermons, or looking to do so in the near future. Putting together a solution that can produce multiple outputs can help keep your members engaged, but it also means a higher work load for the technical director or the ability to split the load among multiple individuals. This is something to consider when preparing your production crew for new ways to share your message.

Delivering a multioutput production goes beyond having multiple production switchers (and potentially multiple audio mixers) or multiple control panels. The monitoring and control requirements beyond the production switcher and directors should not be overlooked. The monitoring requirements can vary from IMAG, which may be very simple, to more complex monitoring in a switched environment. And, the web feed may have a different set of sources to monitor and graphics that are formatted for a smaller screen. With these variables, having a flexible multiviewer with controllable layouts and the ability to retask displays can be very helpful.

Requirements for satellite venues, overflow rooms and backstage displays are additional capabilities to consider. Putting together a control solution that can easily manage these paths with a simple user interface can significantly ease the stress of the production crew.

Upgradable, Flexible and Easy-to-learn

As display and transmission technologies advance and alternate distribution methods continue to gain acceptance, having a flexible production solution is likely the most important capability for all of the solutions being examined.

The upgradability of your system from one format to another (1080i to 1080p or to 4K UHD) allows you to remain flexible to the changing needs of your productions and your congregation. The ability to add more outputs and control panels as your distribution paths multiply and to easily add software options (additional keyers, DVE channels, input/output conversion), can help you buy only what you need today without having to worry about being “boxed in” later and unable to expand.

Most production crews are staffed with volunteers that either have production experience or are eager to learn, so having a system with a user-friendly interface that’s easy to learn and simple to navigate is vital. A system with common user-interfaces across platforms can ease training requirements particularly as personnel move between positions.

Use Your Resources

Finally, having peers or an integration partner who has put together similar systems can be a great resource.

- What obstacles did they encounter during their upgrade or installation and early days of operation?
- What did they learn about their requirements that wasn’t obvious when they started planning?

Seeking experience from other professionals in similar ministries can help avoid pitfalls that may not be apparent.
Final Thoughts

Choosing a solution does not have to be an unpleasant task. The capabilities of today’s solutions can easily open new avenues and provide the tools to reach your members effectively inside and outside your worship walls. Take a clear look at your current system, gain insight from your ministry and your peers, then take the steps to serve your congregation and share your message — now and in the future.

“Our switcher had a catastrophic failure as a result of a lightning strike. Grass Valley and systems integrator Lubbock Audio Visual, Inc., were able to put together a complete proposal in less than 24 hours. We issued a purchase order on Tuesday November 24th and the switcher was on our dock by 9:30 am the following Monday morning, despite the Thanksgiving holiday.”

Michael Wells, Executive Director of Operations, Trinity Fellowship

Read the full case study at: www.grassvalley.com/docs/Case_Studiesswitchers/kayenne/GVB-1-0570A-EN-CS_Trinity_Kayenne.pdf