

The Web-Empowered Church

a Ministry of the Foundation for Evangelism

Mission

The mission of WEC is to innovatively apply **WEB** technology to **EMPOWER** the worldwide **CHURCH** for ministry.

Vision

WEC will help churches around the world expand evangelism, discipleship, and care through the innovative application of Internet technology. WEC web-based tools and training will make church ministries more efficient and effective, and will extend ministry impact to a world in need of Jesus. The WEC will help take the Church to the next step in Internet ministry, going far beyond current static church web sites to easy-to-use church web applications that amplify the impact of most of the ministries in the church.

Our current goal is to web-empower over 10,000 churches by the year 2010.

Ministry Potential of the Internet

The Internet is the most powerful communication technology man has ever created. In all aspects of our lives -- business, leisure, education, etc. -- the Internet is impacting the way we do much of what we do. In addition, the Internet has connected the world together like no other technology. Unfortunately, the Church has been slower to capitalize on the power of Internet technology. This may be partly due to the conservative nature of churches, but we also know that Internet ministry is very new. Most churches are not educated on what Internet ministry can do. In addition, there are technical barriers that must be overcome.

Technology Barriers

The first technical barrier is just getting a basic church web site. Fortunately, several organizations are addressing this barrier by providing low-cost easy-to-create web sites. However, there is a second much larger barrier that must be overcome in order to fully realize the power of the Internet for ministry. The second technology barrier is creation of web applications that really empower church ministries by making them substantially more efficient, more effective, and able to impact more people. Unfortunately, this second barrier is much more difficult to overcome because of the increased sophistication of these web applications, which require considerable technical know how and a longer development time. The WEC is addressing both barriers, but the main focus is on the second barrier -- developing web applications that can empower church ministries.

The Movement

The Web-Empowered Church (WEC) is a movement among God's people in churches around the world to partner together to help take the Church to the next step in applying Internet technology to ministry. The WEC is developing powerful web-based ministry-enhancing tools that churches can freely use on their websites.



Approach

Applying Internet technology to truly empower church ministries around the world is a challenging task. It requires a detailed understanding of ministry needs, creativity and innovation, and the technical know how to create the applications. And, in order to make these new capabilities available to numerous churches, delivery mechanisms must be developed, and training is needed to teach churches how to use these new capabilities. The magnitude of this effort necessitates a team approach among many of God's people with different skills, gifts, and backgrounds. Teamwork and partnerships are critical to the success of this movement. And in order for the Web-Empowered Church to be effective and practical, the creation of the Web-Empowered Church needs to come from a co-development among many diverse and healthy churches. As a result, the development is not being done by a web company, a Christian institution, or even a single co-located team. Instead, the strategy is to partner with churches to perform the majority of the development and testing. The Web-Empowered Church needs to be practical and usable in regular churches by regular people doing real ministry.

Development

The WEC development effort is divided into the following three parts:

Technology: Researching new innovative and practical ways to apply Internet technology to ministry

Training: Advanced training on Internet ministry potential and ministry-enhancing tools

Tools: Powerful web-based ministry applications that are freely available to churches around the world

More Information

WebEmpoweredChurch.com – for WEC users
WebEmpoweredChurch.org – for WEC developers