

Resources that will build your site for you

www.umc.e-zekiel.com

Through an agreement with United Methodist Communications (UMCom), Praktikos Technologies is now offering E-zekiel websites to United Methodist churches. More than 200 templates are available. E-zekiel is formatted much like word processing programs, so administrating a website is almost self-explanatory. An online help section also gives assistance. The program is diverse enough to offer animations and banners, original pictures, streaming audio and video, marquees, polls, and font and color choices. A monthly fee is charged and includes hosting services.

Ministry Blox.com

http://www.ministryblox.com/

This site has more than 20 customizable templates from which to choose that will establish the “look and feel” of your website. Ministry Blox starts each site off with a basic structure called “Base Site Package.” This package gives you a Home Page design, Calendar, News and Guestbook. It also allows you to add as many pages to your site as you would like using the Page Management tool. Fees are charged for services through this site.

EBeliever.net

http://www.ebeliever.net/home.html

eBeliever.net exists to help ministries develop a presence online by providing ideas for ministering online, a place to host your site, a way to enhance your site or an entire custom-designed website specifically geared for your ministry. The hosting and design services on this site are paid services.

Christianity.com

http://www.christianity.com/

Christianity.com is a network of churches and church-related organizations that use the Christianity.com Web design tools and plug-ins to create their websites. This paid services provides hosting and design services.

Christian Built.com

http://www.christianbuilt.com/main/index.htm

The site provides a site builder, custom development and community tools or add-ins for the website you build through ChristianBuilt.com. These services are paid services, but the site also provides information about website design in the “Articles” section.

For Ministry

http://www.forministry.com/

This site offers articles, free Web space and templates to develop your own website on their servers. Your church will be assigned a Web address by For Ministry.com, and you can use their templates to fill out your church’s information.

Resources to help you design a site

A Church Voice

http://www.laufers.com/churchvoice/

This free site offers tips, ideas and resources for church newsletters and websites. It appears no new content has been provided since June 2001, but the topics and information are still worth a look.

Association of Christian Web Authors

http://webauthors.org/portal/

This free site is for professional and amateur Web designers who do church or church-related sites. The site features online forums and discussion groups, an e-mail list, tutorials, downloads for website features and links to other resources and church sites.

Cool Homepages

http://www.coolhomepages.com/

This site offers many Web pages to help you start thinking about how you want your website to look. This site also features how-to topics to help you create ideas from one of the many websites found on this site.

www.web.umc.org

United Methodist Communications' Web Ministry Team has been developing a set of resources for equipping local churches in the pursuit of web ministry. The culmination of this work is *web.umc.org*. Topics on the website include:

- *Getting Started Guide*: Resources for establishing an initial Web Ministry Presence
- *Web Ministry Best Practices*: Articles on ministry, technical, and leadership skills along with book and website review
- *Resources for Webmasters*: A listing of helpful tools and information for ministry webmasters

Gospel.com's Evangelism site

<http://www.gospelcom.net/guide/web-evangelism.html>

On the Gospel.com Evangelism site, you will find strategies to help you plan your Web evangelism efforts. In addition, there is a Web Evangelism newsletter to which you can subscribe. You also can visit links to other resources and websites that might be helpful in creating your church's website.

Gospelcom Seminar goodies

<http://www.youthspecialties.com/speak/gci1001/>

This page features information presented at recent seminars sponsored by Gospel.com. The page features a PowerPoint presentation and sites that will help you design your site for visitor usability. This page also features Web design workflow online book and a Website development worksheet.

Hartford Institute for Religion Research

http://hirr.hartsem.edu/cong/cong_designing_church_sites.html

This site offers an outline of the process through which congregations develop their websites and maintain them over time. This site offers a look at determining your site's content, look and navigation as well as how your church's website will be found on the Internet and preparing it to show up on Internet searches.

Usability.gov National Cancer Research Institute

<http://www.usability.gov/>

This site is a resource for designing usable, useful and accessible websites. This site is geared toward organizations relating to the treatment and research of cancer. However, the tips, tools and information are relevant to any accessible, usable and useful website.

The Newbie Club

http://newbieclub.com/cgi-bin/sgx/d.cgi?finding_out

This site is geared for computer, Internet and Web design beginners. It features tutorials for everything from creating your first website to Windows and Microsoft Word. To become a member of the free Newbie Club, sign up on the website. Then, you will have access to the Members' Academy. Membership gives you access to online resources for Web copy writing, e-mail tutorials, PC tutorials, free software, graphics resources and information about viruses and what they do.