

Website Hosting

You have many options for hosting your website and many different price ranges to choose from. Whether you're looking for free space or want to purchase space for your own domain name, there's no reason this decision should be stressful.

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.

Local Internet Service Providers

If you are looking for an inexpensive choice, check with your current local Internet service provider. Many of them offer a small amount of space to clients for Web pages. If your church has a Web address through a local Internet service provider, you may already be paying for the space even if you're not using it. You may be able to use your own domain name for your website through this method.

Questions to ask the Internet service provider that you choose

- What is the host name and address to use for transferring files to their server?
- Do we use .htm or .html as document extensions?

General Board of Global Ministries

The General Board of Global Ministries offers free Web space to United Methodist Churches and related organizations. This free space is located on the General Board of Global Ministries server and is actually a part of their website. Your church will be given a Web address on the General Board site. The board also provides good information about putting together Web pages and offers tutorials and technical support to churches using this service.

For information or to apply, visit the General Board of Global Ministries' site at:

http://gbgm-umc.org/home_page/index.cfm

Click on the "UM Web Hosting" menu button on the left side of the page. In this section, you will find helpful websites, frequently asked questions, the application for Web space, the sign up for an e-mail discussion for website creators and recommended reading.

Churches on the Web

<http://www.churchesontheweb.com/>

Churches On The Web is a non-profit ministry providing the opportunity for churches to have their very own website ministry. They provide free Web design, quality dependable hosting, and unlimited changes and updates for all of our sites.

Hot Pulse.com

<http://www.hostpulse.com/app/>

Find a website host with this online search engine for Web hosts. The top 10 are listed and ranked. Or, use the search features to find what you need in a Web host.

True Path

<http://www.truepath.com/>

True Path offers a basic free Web hosting package as well as paid hosting packages to Christian organizations and churches. The True Path site also features help topics to assist you with using the options available in hosting packages.

Free Web space

There are servers that offer free Web space. But, beware. Often advertising banners are placed at the top of the Web pages or pop-up windows with advertising appear. These advertisements may have inappropriate content for a church

website.

What is a domain name?

A domain name is your church's very own Uniform Resource Locator or URL. For the Kansas West Conference, our domain name is kswestumc.org

Can my church use its own domain name?

Many free services do not allow you to use your own domain name. Instead, your church is assigned an address on the free service's website. This places your website inside another website and makes it more difficult for visitors to find unless they are using an index on that service's site to locate your church. Search engines do not find websites hidden within other sites.

However, if your church can pay for hosting services, it is a good idea to get your own domain name and place your site on its own. A domain name unique to your church provides additional identity and make your site more available to search engines when someone online searches for a church in your community.

How do we get a domain name?

There are many domain name registration companies. The conference has used several, including Network Solutions, TuCows and AITCom.net. These online registration sites will allow you to type in what you want for a domain name and will check to see if that domain is available. You will want to have your online host involved in the registration process so your domain will be ready to go as soon as your transaction is processed.