



10 SURE SIGNS

YOUR CHURCH IS BEHIND THE TIMES

SOLUTION GUIDE



The ministry ideas, how to's, tips, and advice you need to keep up with the times. PLUS... how our software, RealM[®], can help you achieve this ministry goal.

table of contents

The Cultural Mandate.....	4
Website.....	6
Child Attendance & Check-In.....	7
Profiles.....	9
eGiving.....	11
Social Media.....	13
Communication & Community.....	15
Assimilation & Discipleship.....	17
Mobile Ministry.....	20
Small Groups.....	21
Church Management.....	23
The Signs of the Times.....	24

the cultural mandate

The Church brings hope to a lost and hurting world. The Church must not only redeem souls but also influence the different portals of our culture with the life-changing message of the Gospel. God's people are called "to be in the world, but not of it." Author John Stott puts it this way: "We find ourselves citizens of two kingdoms. One earthly and one heavenly. Each citizenship lays upon us duties, which we are not at liberty to evade."

There's nothing more significant in our lifetime than to be a part of a spiritual movement that recalibrates and redefines the status quo of our culture. When this happens, the Church can play a pivotal role in spreading the Gospel, making disciples, and influencing the different areas of society that will make a significant impact in the 21st century.

THE 3 M'S OF MINISTRY

If your church was no longer a part of the community, would you be sorely missed? The voice of the church must be current and relevant if it's going to be a redemptive tool that meets the needs of the community and shapes the spiritual narrative of our culture. Simply put, ministry should consist of 3 main areas.

✘ Mission: The Why

Define what makes your church distinct and sets it apart. Create goals and objectives that align with the unique calling, fundamental values, and core competencies of the Church.

✘ Message: The What

Craft the spiritual voice of your church with ideas and concepts that reinforce the calling and values of the ministry. Shape the narrative so it resonates with different audiences and age groups.

✘ Method: The How

Select a delivery method that's compatible with your audience or age group. Adopt tools and systems that will customize, energize, and facilitate ministry in all kinds of church settings.

When you plan and prepare different ministry initiatives, events, and activities, ask yourself 3 questions: 1) Is the strategy just as sound as the resources and content providers? 2) Do the tools deliver a strong message and optimal experience? 3) Will the resources impact the audience and maximize results?

ARE YOU BEHIND THE TIMES?

With that in mind, take inventory of the different areas of your church to verify everything is on point and hits the mark. If you don't, your church will quickly lose touch with the culture and start falling behind the times. In the end, ideas and strategies will appear old and outdated. Tools will become stagnant and antiquated. Ultimately, the message will get lost in the noise and clutter.

To hit the mark, your church needs to define success. It must be measurable and quantifiable. Create your own spiritual checklist, and examine your church through these 5 lenses to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of how you do ministry.

✘ Audience

Know who you're talking to and how you want to communicate with them. Customize the message and delivery method to reach the individual, group, or audience.

✘ Strategy

Match the idea and approach with the message and audience to optimize ministry results.

✘ Tools

Utilize ministry products and services that fit the personal makeup and spiritual framework of your church.

✘ Gatekeepers

Select influencers and thought leaders who know the pulse of the church. Pick a variety of Bible teachers who resonate with the men, women, and youth in your ministry.

✘ Resources

Tap into Bible study materials and curriculum that will challenge and inspire the different age groups of your church.

If you're not doing any regular reconnaissance, the church is probably missing out on different ministry opportunities.

HERE ARE THE 10 SURE SIGNS YOUR CHURCH IS BEHIND THE TIMES. IF ANY OF THESE ISSUES RING TRUE, CALCULATE HOW YOU CAN BRING THE MINISTRY UP TO SPEED AND CREATE A RICH, DYNAMIC SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT.

SIGN #10

the website hasn't been updated in over a year

The one rule of thumb when it comes to updating your church website in a timely manner is: There are no rules. Updating, redesigning or re-engineering your website should depend entirely on your ministry goals, objectives and economic considerations rather than using a superficial time frame pulled out of thin air.

There are many red flags that will signal the need for a redesign. Here are several criteria that will factor into your decision to update the church website.

✘ Branding

New branding and color standards should be incorporated into the website.

Engagement

- ✘ Bounce rates are high. People visit, but few convert. A well-thought-out redesign can turn this pattern around.

New Products & Services

- ✘ The growth and expansion of the church features new products, services, and ministry areas. The website design and functionality should reflect the changes and updates.

✘ Functionality

The congregation and visitors access the website less often because it doesn't reflect the core values of the ministry or its inferior functionality makes it increasingly difficult to navigate the different areas of the website.

✘ Adaptability

The website doesn't adapt to mobile device screens. Websites built with Flash don't interface with Apple's iPads and iPhones, which decrease efficiency and effectiveness. Speed, reliability, and agility are an absolute must in today's mobile-driven world.

✘ Simplicity

Keep things simple to avoid long wait times. If the website takes a long time to load ministry content, the church should re-engineer the backend.

✘ Moving Forward

Church staff, volunteers, or members should be able to learn and use your content management system to update the church website. The church shouldn't have to hire a programmer to execute simple changes and quick fixes.

Select members to act as a focus group or sounding board about the aesthetic appeal and functionality of the new design features. Church member opinion and feedback gives the ministry valuable insights that can convert visitors into attendees. After the updates are complete, address problems or concerns with incremental design enhancements that don't require starting over. In a perfect digital world, the church website should evolve over time and execute subtle refinements without sacrificing the user experience.

SIGN #9

the child check-in process is done on a clipboard

✘ Safety First: Child-Proof Your Check-In

We have a big responsibility to create a safe, secure environment for kids to play, learn, and grow. Keeping track of a child's attendance and whereabouts without a comprehensive strategy and check-in system is risky business. Too many details can slip through the cracks. Personal information and medical data can get overlooked. Just plain human error can easily put a child in harm's way.

Churches of all sizes should implement an easy-to-use, reliable check-in system for worship services, group activities and special events. The system should verify the identity of a child and legal parent or guardian. It should feature a way for ministry volunteers to check in and release kids to the appropriate adult without relying on people's memory. Knowing attendance figures can equip church leaders to understand who is involved and what improvements or adjustments must be made to improve the safety process.



✘ Attendance & Check-In Process

Implementing a check-in system is the best way to consistently and accurately verify attendance patterns. A check-in system provides vital knowledge about and understanding of the people using your children's ministry. This is especially important when it comes to Sunday School and Kids' Church.

Knowing important details about kids, toddlers and infants equips teachers with the tools to meet their needs and gives parents peace of mind. Parents want to know their kids are in good hands and being managed by a sound, reliable, automated system.

✘ Realm Check-In

Realm Check-In is simple and customizable. The automated system offers several valuable benefits.

- *Set up and manage check-in kiosks from a central location.*
- *Streamline the check-in process for groups and events.*
- *Give parents the ability to check in kids with care instructions and details.*
- *Offer a safe, secure check-in process with sticker labels.*
- *Run and post attendance figures and reports in real time.*
- *Capture trends and patterns for data analysis.*

Realm Check-In can be launched in a self check-in mode, staff/volunteer assisted mode, or a hybrid of both.

✘ Self Check-In Mode

Realm Self Check-In mode offers a simple way for parents to check in their kids to any event. Parents use a touch screen kiosk to look up their family by last name, phone number, or scanning a barcode. Once the family is located, simply touch the screen for the child to check in, choose the event, and print labels. For children, check-in label options can include a parent and kid badge with a unique custom code for the event.

✘ Staff Check-In Mode

Realm Check-In can run in a staff/volunteer assisted mode. Trained staff and/or volunteers operate the kiosks. Regular attendees check in quickly and receive security/parent badges. Guests fill out key contact information and medical/allergy information in case of an emergency.

✘ Hybrid Mode

A third option is to run Check-In using a hybrid mode. Regular attendees can use the self check-in kiosks. Guests can rely on the staff/volunteer stations to give key contact and medical/allergy information prior to escorting the child to their room. The church prints parent and child badges and follows the same release policy.

Realm Check-In is an inexpensive way to show members and visitors that you value their children and want to provide a safe, secure environment for them to play, learn, and grow. Practice safety first. Child-proof your check-in with Realm.

SIGN #8

there are no background checks for children's ministry volunteers

A shepherd plays a pivotal role in tending, caring for, and protecting his sheep. A shepherd must be intuitive, caring, and strong. Above all else, a shepherd must earn the trust and confidence of his flock.

✘ To Know Me is to Love Me

In the same way, the Church must require the same qualities and attributes from its ministry volunteers. There must be complete transparency and accountability when it comes to entrusting a child's safety and well-being to a ministry volunteer during a church service or special event.

It's not enough to hand over a child to a smiling face and a willing heart just because the church is desperate to fill a void or vacancy. A person's qualifications must extend far beyond an impressive resume, rock solid references, and charming interview skills. The church needs to dig deeper. The ministry must do a thorough background check to make sure there are no hidden issues or problems that could endanger a child's welfare and put the church at risk.

What do you know about the ministry volunteers in your church? What's their family background? How much do they participate in the life and outreach ministry of the church? Do you know them well enough to lead them? As the church grows, it becomes more and more challenging to know the spiritual health and well-being of your church body. So how can you bridge the gap between knowing and not knowing?

✕ Profiles on Realm

Member profiles play a pivotal role in the life and operations of the church. Profiles on Realm reveal pertinent facts and information about people and their history with the church. Profiles offer insights that make it easier to get to know them. Most importantly, profiles equip church leaders and staff with background information and track records so they can effectively serve and support their volunteer team. On top of that, a system powering the profile database will allow people get to know one another better through an easy-to-use, online directory.

Realm's comprehensive profile management system offers several features and benefits

- *Create custom fields so staff can track what's most important to your church.*
- *Keep confidential information secure with multiple viewer permission settings.*

- Save time and maintain data integrity by importing data from an existing system.
- Allow members to update information on the web or mobile devices.
- Connect people through a church directory with pictures and profile information.

Profiles on Realm sync with donor records, church activity, group involvement, and communication. Church leadership can access all kinds of information about the people in the ministry using a fully integrated, cloud-based church management solution.

SIGN #7

the majority of tithes and offerings are gathered with an offering plate

✘ The State of the Plate

With flat or declining giving trends, the Church is scrambling for viable giving solutions. Fluctuating attendance patterns on Sunday mornings or during mid-week church services can limit and restrict giving. When people on the go can't attend church on a regular basis, you don't want to be out of sight and out of mind. Statistics show that when attendance drops, engagement decreases and giving declines. So how do you keep people connected and engaged without being there?

✘ The New Offering Plate

People utilize their mobile devices for just about everything. Giving with a mobile device is the new offering plate. It's convenient and easy to use. You can give anytime, anywhere, 24/7. Churches with an eGiving platform experience substantial increases in all types of giving.

However, incompatibility between different eGiving platforms can cause administrative nightmares. Studies show that integrating an eGiving and communication platform with a ChMS increases engagement and inspires people to give more often and in multiple ways. To save time and avoid costly mistakes, the church needs to adopt an integrated eGiving platform that pairs powerful online giving tools with an accounting and communication platform that's all in ONE place.

✘ Integrated eGiving powered by Realm

Realm offers a fully integrated eGiving and communication platform where your congregation can engage and give in the same, secure online environment. Realm is a convenient place to go for information, interaction, and giving that builds familiarity, increases engagement, and boosts giving. On top of that, Realm makes the unpredictable task of annual budgeting and planning much more predictable with recurring tithes and offerings.

Realm offers a comprehensive, online communication experience that merges every area of the church into ONE state-of-the-art system. Realm's fully integrated, cloud-based ChMS offers a versatile eGiving platform that accommodates multiple delivery methods.

Integrated eGiving from Realm offers several valuable features.

- Offer multiple options for receiving and tracking donations.
- Synchronize receipts with member records.
- Merge giving and accounting into ONE system.
- Designate specific funds and set up recurring giving plans.
- Provide automated report generation and records management.

Regardless of the delivery method, Realm records and stores donor giving information and activity all in ONE place. Implementing a comprehensive approach to financial management saves time, improves budgeting, and instills accountability. Equip the saints for the work of the ministry, and provide your congregation with a practical and convenient eGiving solution that will cultivate good stewardship and simulate generous giving.

SIGN #6

the social media exposure of the church consists of a facebook page

The social media landscape is growing by leaps and bounds. Unfortunately, many churches are hesitant to adopt social media or they execute it poorly. The church needs to embrace a social media presence across multiple platforms. To be effective, the church must create a social media strategy, set measurable goals, and find personnel to execute the plan.

HERE ARE 8 KEY AREAS FOR SHAPING THE SOCIAL MEDIA CLIMATE OF THE CHURCH THAT WILL ATTRACT VISITORS AND ENGAGE MEMBERS.

✘ Designate a Point Person

A staff member or volunteer should oversee schedules, post content, and verify quality control so nothing slips through the cracks. Without a designated point person, church social media will be haphazard and ultimately hurt the ministry efforts and reputation of the church.

✘ The Social Media Playbook

It is vital to know the pros and cons of each social media channel so the church can match and post relevant content to the appropriate online platform that resonates with each audience. Here are the strengths of the most popular social media channels.

	Links	Photos	Videos	Quotes	Hashtags	Settings
Facebook	X	X	X			
Twitter	X	X		X	X	
Instagram		X	X		X	X

✘ Integrate Don't Isolate

Avoid separating social media from other communication platforms. For instance, use the weekly newsletter or bulletin to shape the content of your social media channels.

✘ The Match Game

Know your audience. Evaluate the “sharability” of a post when you match the type of content with the appropriate channel. If people are unlikely to share content with family or friends, shift the content or revise the call to action (CTA).



✘ Two-Way Street

Social media is not a one-way street. Social media is a two-way communication tool. This requires dialogue, listening, and response. Not every comment requires feedback. If the same questions keep popping up, add a FAQ page to the church website or integrate answers with the existing content.

✘ Follower Counts vs. Engagement

A growing number of online followers shows activity and interest, but it isn't the best way to measure effectiveness. Set timely and measurable goals for engagement rather than trying to simply increase follower counts.

✘ Analyze the Data. Customize the Experience.

Set goals and track progress. Monitor, engage, schedule, and analyze social media accounts with tracking tools such as Buffer and Hootsuite. Review the analytics of social media accounts so you can effectively connect with your audience.

✘ Mainstream & Cross Promote

Spread the word about social media to members and visitors. Post logos and usernames for your accounts to bulletins, newsletters, and promotional materials. Make sure members and visitors know where to find you so they can engage with you.

SIGN #5

online community is not an oxymoron

Community begins with communication. Reaching people at the right time, the right place with the right message is a powerful experience. As people become increasingly mobile, more opportunities arise to reach them. Strange as it may seem, a single, comprehensive ChMS coupled with the right digital tools and online resources can draw people closer together and forge meaningful relationships. It's fast, easy, and convenient. Access anyone, anytime, anywhere.

But there are also new challenges. Pairing the right tools with a well-thought out strategy is essential to keeping people on the same page and in the know. Implement systems and tools that will empower your leaders, staff, volunteers, and members to connect and communicate in fruitful ways.

✘ This Time It's Personal

Realm offers safe, secure communication channels. Create powerful, personal connections with automation and templates. Regularly text people with encouragement, updates, and requests. Message people on Facebook to share events, images, and posts. Meet in small groups and “huddles.” Store important files to reference before and after ministry experiences with others. Create a private online community where people can engage in a safe, secure environment.



“ONLINE COMMUNITY IS NOT AN OXYMORON.”

✘ Reach AnyONE, AnyTIME, AnyWHERE

It's not always possible to gather people in the same room at the same time. Create a secure digital environment with online tools and resources from Realm that stimulates interaction and engagement so ministry can happen 24/7. Utilize acceptable social media channels to communicate personal information and compelling messages. Interact with people about activities, events, and ministry opportunities.

✘ Target Messages. Remove the Noise

Leading is communicating. Realm is the best one- and two-way communication tool for churches. Remove the noise and clutter so you can participate in conversations that really matter. Target messages. Create groups for a variety of purposes. Send reminders, notifications, and requests to individuals and groups. Set up texts for collaborating on personal topics and ministry opportunities. Foster personal conversations with kindred spirits and group discussions with relevant voices using the right communication channels. Message people or groups with the appropriate social media channels.

✘ Set Up Systems. Enhance Engagement

Encourage interaction and engagement with versatile communication systems. Assign and follow up on real life interactions with online tools or pathways. Assign follow-up communication. Mark days of the week for specific types of communication. Establish standard timelines for different kinds of communication. Make a daily, weekly, and monthly checklist list of individual and group communication. Create communication templates for church leaders, staff, and volunteers. Track progress so you can follow up with individuals and group members in meaningful ways.

✘ Automate Communication. Fast-Track Ministry

Automate weekly email reminders, visitor follow-up, event notifications, announcements, social media promotion, and ongoing communication to save time and create consistency. There are a variety of online and electronic tools to automate the standard stuff so you can schedule multiple social media posts using apps such as Hootsuite. Send out regular emails with pre-made templates with tools such as MailChimp or Constant Contact. Schedule announcements and notifications in Realm. Create calendar notifications that trigger follow-up communication. Create auto-reply emails for forms, surveys, and sign-ups.

Take the guesswork out of individual and group communication with personal involvement and strong accountability. Reach out to people and encourage interaction through social media, email, texts, ChMS, and mobile devices. Discover how people connect with each other so you can create a calendar and set up automated systems to facilitate ongoing communication. Utilize a variety of tools to compliment different communication styles.

Get people talking, connected, and poised for growth. Increase your touch points so ministry can happen 24/7. Establish a solid communication framework and strategy that will make your church flourish.

SIGN #4

discipleship consists of periodic meetings

Discipleship is leading people through a step-by-step process that meets specific needs, goals or objectives. Whatever the destination, discipleship should move people from where they are to where God wants them to be.

✘ Going the Distance

The underlining purpose of discipleship is to educate, motivate, and empower people to take the next step in their life-long spiritual journey to be more like Christ. During the discipleship process, people need input and feedback to reach their goals and grow spiritually. Specifically, people need to know: 1) what to do, 2) where they stand, and 3) where they're going on their spiritual quest.

An effective discipleship plan should encompass several key components.

- *A comprehensive strategy to move people through the process and track progress.*
- *Clear next steps to take during the process.*
- *One or more seasoned leaders to shepherd a person during each step.*
- *Pertinent information about how to take each step.*
- *Timely updates that reveal where people stand during the process.*

THE FOUR C'S OF DISCIPLESHIP

Disciples need a plan to follow that will keep them on course and headed in the right direction. Offer your congregation tangible next steps to move them forward. Personalize and customize the plan to meet people's needs. The framework of your discipleship plan should consist of 4 main areas.

✘ **Connecting**

Assimilation is the first part of discipleship. Connect people to the life of the church. Plug them into fellowship opportunities, events, activities, small groups, and outreach ministries. People will commit to the journey when they go through life changing experiences that connect them with the church.

✘ **Communicating**

Clearly spell out the process. People want to know what they're getting into and what's involved. Give people a clear and consistent message of what's expected, what they're doing, and how to get started.

✘ **Coordinating**

Discipleship is multi-faceted. Since it involves so many different areas of life, make sure that all the components are in sync with each other. People will take the first step when they understand the big picture and know their destination.

✘ **Committing**

People want to know church leaders are in it for the long haul. Nobody wants to be deserted halfway through the process. Create an atmosphere of transparency and accountability by giving leaders clearly defined responsibilities and ongoing training so they will own and be invested in the process.

⊗ A Support System

Carry out a customizable plan that's on point with a reliable software solution from Realm. Realm gives your church the digital tools to create a fully functioning system that encompasses everything you need to implement a strategic course of action.

Here are several features and benefits for making disciples with Realm.

- *Create discipleship Pathways or next steps with assigned leaders that move people along a path of growth.*
- *Reach different people with personalized messages.*
- *Update groups with targeted email messages.*
- *Allow people to see incremental growth and what resources, classes, and ministry opportunities are available.*
- *Instill accountability by tracking people's progress and leader involvement.*
- *Give accurate, up-to-the-minute information that monitors the spiritual health of the church.*

⊗ A Pathway For Discipleship

Pathways from Realm provides the church with a written plan and active tracking system for equipping leaders to disciple men and women of faith. Pathways empowers leaders and staff to create customizable steps for mentoring each person assigned to a "pathway." Pathways give leaders a current status report on people's progress during each step of their spiritual journey. Leaders can access key information from any device and contact individuals in a timely manner. Realm offers high-end digital tools so your leaders can coach and mentor people anytime, anywhere, 24/7.

Now instead of wondering where people are in their spiritual journey, get the pulse of your church, execute a plan, and create a pathway for making disciples using an innovative software solution from Realm.

SIGN #3

connection only happens in the church foyer

The church needs to find ways for people to communicate and engage beyond Sunday mornings or mid-week church services. People expect to interact with the church community by using the same digital tools that connect them with friends and family during the week. Reach people where they are with what they want without relying on them to be in the same place at the same time.

✘ Communication

Church communication is one of the most difficult tasks to do effectively. Multiple audiences tune in to messages and information that matter only to them. While certain messages need to be delivered to the whole church, other information must be conveyed to individuals, groups, and teams. Target communication to individuals and groups with the right mobile app linked to your church software. Relay churchwide notifications, events, and reminders or pinpoint individuals associated with groups or ministries. Notifications, messages, and reminders will all go straight to the mobile device in real time.

✘ Community

It's not just about what you're saying, but how people interact with each other. Connect people in multiple ways that will benefit them the most. A mobile app with a member directory anchored with group communication tools and an events calendar can connect individuals, groups, and the church. From the palm of your hand, discover new people, reach out to friends on the fly, RSVP and communicate about events, interact with groups, update preferences, and much, much more.

✘ Collaboration

Service teams, outreach groups, ad hoc committees all need ways to communicate directly with each other. Avoid chasing down loose ends and trying to remember who's doing what, where, when, and how. Group communication, profile information, and calendars on mobile devices give teams the tools to make ministry happen anytime, anywhere.

Stronger communication, connection, and collaboration will increase the commitment level of the church in several ways

- *Group involvement will rise when members share content and discuss topics online.*
- *Events will be better planned and attended as people receive timely reminders and RSVP online.*
- *Giving will increase with faster, easier, and more convenient delivery methods.*
- *Attendance and serving will soar because people will be connected and stay informed.*

✘ Connect app powered by Realm

Realm's Connect app is an online ministry tool that connects the church and personalizes people's involvement. The app is fully integrated with Realm so information can be shared seamlessly across all platforms. The app is powered by Realm but customized to meet the unique needs of the church. With the Connect app, people can screen and manage their involvement while engaging in ways that matter most to them.

Now more than ever, people can participate in group discussions, post photos, share resources, dialogue about events, and respond to group messages with their mobile device. In this digital age, reach more people and increase engagement with a mobile ministry platform that incorporates the Connect app from Realm.

SIGN #2

small groups seldom connect online

Communication and community go hand-in-hand. Good communication is the stepping stone to building a strong, vibrant community. It increases engagement, drives discipleship, and increases spiritual growth.

✕ Communication

Small groups are the lifeline of the church. We serve, support, and care for each other. But managing locations, meeting times, communication styles, and community involvement can be like walking a tightrope. Different expectations and commitment levels can get a group quickly off track and cause them to lose their balance. That's why the church needs a system that supports and unifies small groups in several different capacities.

- *List and organize groups by name and category.*
- *Create public and private group settings to accommodate different access levels.*
- *Identify leaders and provide varying posting permissions.*
- *Motivate and inspire communication within the group.*
- *Collect and store personal data and group details.*
- *Record participation information and levels of involvement.*

Online community starts with an interactive platform that facilitates good communication and personal engagement. Cultivate a close-knit community with digital tools and online resources that will bring people closer together. Create a safe, secure online environment for people to get to know each other, build relationships, share personal needs, and grow spiritually.

✕ Community

Realm offers an innovative online solution for encouraging strong communication and increasing the spiritual health of your church.

Here are several ways the church can build a vibrant, online community with Realm.

- *Create a safe, secure online environment so ministry can happen anytime, anywhere.*
- *Share personal needs and messages with specific people or groups.*
- *Communicate important information that will draw the church body closer together.*
- *Customize reminders and notifications for people in different ministry areas.*
- *Post announcements and updates about activities and events that keep people in the loop.*

Realm offers an innovative communication experience that lets people interact and engage in a safe, secure online environment. Whether it's alerts, announcements, targeted emails, or messages on group walls, Realm draws people closer together with high performance digital tools that will make online community a vital and integral part of your ministry.

Groups in Realm can be organized into different types of ministry areas with specific functions to accommodate virtually any size church and ministry structure. Every group can toggle privacy, permission, and communication settings that stimulates strong group interaction.

Groups in Realm offer a flexible, intuitive, and easy-to-navigate online platform that encourages small groups to interact, connect, and engage so people can grow and be fruitful in every area of their lives.

SIGN #1

there are no management tools to organize the life and operations of the church

✘ The Modern-Day Church

The church is a multi-faceted organism with all kinds of moving parts. There are several key components and core functions that make up the modern day church so it can spread the Gospel, make disciples, and expand the Kingdom of God.

Keeping track of everything that's going on in your church can be time consuming and overwhelming. Yet managing the life and operations of the church with multiple solutions will create chaos and confusion. Information gets lost, priorities shift, time and energy are wasted, and people feel disconnected. So what's the most efficient and effective way to navigate the different tasks and responsibilities of the church?

✘ One System. One Solution

The church needs to merge everything into ONE place so the ministry can perform several vital functions.

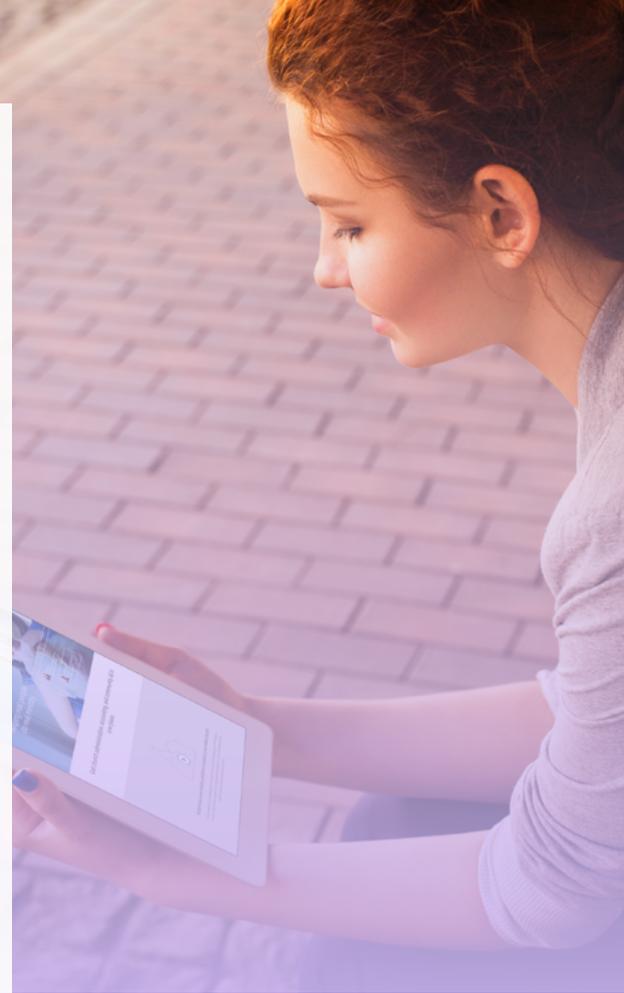
- Empower leaders and staff to do real ministry in real time.
- Develop community on and off line.
- Establish and manage assimilation and discipleship.
- Communicate with and manage members and groups.
- Keep accurate personal, financial, and church records.
- Gain key insights from robust reports and dashboards.
- Manage individual and team tasks and responsibilities.

✘ Integrated ChMS powered by Realm

To do the work of the ministry requires ONE fully integrated church management solution. Realm is at the forefront of this modern-day digital movement. Realm offers a comprehensive, online communication experience that organizes every area of the church into ONE state-of-the-art system.

Unlike other church management solutions, Realm powers every area of the church from a single database that can be accessed from multiple platforms so people can engage and give in the same, secure online environment. It's a versatile ChMS that manages the life and operations of the church.

Avoid piecing together a conglomerate of solutions that waste time and money. Implement a single, powerful church management software that increases off-site access, multiplies your touch points, and solidifies the church. Equip leaders, engage people, facilitate discipleship, and move your ministry forward with a fully integrated, cloud-based ChMS from Realm.



the signs of the times

In this age of technological developments and advances, the modern-day church is evolving and changing so it can be salt and light in a fast-paced, results-driven society. Serving a multi-cultural community requires a multi-faceted approach that's anchored with the right digital tools and online resources.

The voice of the church must be up to date and relevant if it's going to transform a lost and dying culture with the life-changing message of the Gospel. When you survey the landscape of the ministry, take inventory of the different areas of the church to make sure everything hits the mark and is on point.

Create your own spiritual checklist to evaluate the way you do ministry. Examine your ministry through these 5 lenses to measure the effectiveness of the message and delivery method: 1) Audience, 2) Strategy, 3) Tools, 4) Gatekeepers, and 5) Resources. As you do regular, in-depth reconnaissance, the church will stay up to speed, shape the spiritual narrative of the culture, and be a redemptive force in the community.

8 BENEFITS. 1 SOLUTION.

Realm's innovative church management solution offers a personalized, seamless experience that will draw the church closer together. ***Here are 8 strategic features and benefits that set Realm apart and make it the ideal ChMS for the local church.***

1. *A centralized, easy-to-use management system that customizes and fast tracks ministry.*
2. *A practical, step-by-step process that mentors people through their spiritual journey.*
3. *An interactive, online environment that lets ministry happen 24/7.*
4. *A versatile eGiving platform that accommodates multiple delivery methods.*
5. *A safe and secure child check-in system that gives parents peace of mind.*
6. *A comprehensive reporting system that rewards vision casting and goal setting.*
7. *An event registration platform that integrates several high performance features.*
8. *An integrated accounting system that builds financial discipline and transparency.*

BRING THE CHURCH UP TO SPEED

The mission of the church matters. So don't fall behind the times and miss out on all kinds of divine appointments. Empower church leadership. Equip the saints for the work of the ministry. Unify and fortify the church. Spend less time facilitating and more time assimilating so you can have real ministry impact. Go the extra mile with the right mix of digital tools and online resources using ONE church management solution. Get hooked up and watch your ministry soar!



Throughout this guide, you have seen several ways that Realm helps churches reach new people and manage the life and operations of a church. We're excited to share more about our revolutionary ministry tool, Realm.

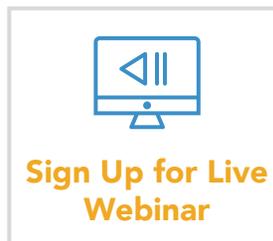
Realm provides solutions that will make your ministry and life way easier. It is cutting-edge church management software that combines administration, accounting, and community into one system. It also connects your entire church and personalizes each person's involvement in your ministry.

We'd encourage you to explore all that Realm makes possible by taking a demo, walking through a self-guided tour, or speaking with an associate today!



Take a Self-Guided Tour

acstechnologies.com/products/realms/demo



Sign Up for Live Webinar

acstechnologies.com/products/realms/demo/tour



Call an Associate

1-800-736-7425

Our Mission: To help you have *real* ministry impact

ACS Technologies has provided over four decades of services and software to churches of all sizes throughout the world. During that time we have accumulated data, gained vital insight, and received thousands of first-hand testimonials on best practices and methods that most effectively help ministries.

Our years of service have allowed us to become the world's largest provider of ministry solutions to churches of all sizes. It is our mission to furnish advice, examples, tips, and information to help you turn your ideas into real ministry impact.

Powered by the people of **ACS Technologies.**



Family owned
for over 40 years



#1 rated
in service



Nearly 50,000
churches served



Over 400 staff
ready to serve



Best place
to work

www.acstechnologies.com
1-800-736-7425

0119 Copyright © ACS Technologies Group, Inc.