

# RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI IN MINISTRY: WORKSHOP FOR CHURCH LEADERS



**Nice work! You just completed the Church Leader AI Personality Type Quiz. Hopefully, you now have a better sense of your disposition toward using AI in ministry.**

**Now, it's time to discuss this as a team.**

**(If your team has not taken the quiz yet, share the [quiz link](#) so they can learn about their own AI Approach.)**

**Use this workshop guide to:**

- Begin an important conversation with your team and align perspectives
- Develop a position statement for your church
- Discover tools that align with your results



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*PRO TIP: As you reflect, capture the key values and concerns your team shares so that you can appropriately craft a church position statement around AI.*

1. Which of the Church Leader AI Personality Types listed below did the quiz suggest fits you best? Did the description resonate with you?

*(If you haven't yet, take a moment to complete this short [quiz](#) for your results!)*

- **Innovative Proclaimer:** The Innovative Proclaimer actively seeks to integrate modern methods with their ministry efforts. They are aware of both the benefits and the risks of using AI in ministry, and they see technology as a powerful tool to enhance efficiency and reach. At times, their drive for impact can overshadow the traditional emphasis on authenticity and relationality.
- **Tech Optimist:** An enthusiastic advocate of modern tools, the Tech Optimist sees technology as a powerful and essential ally in spreading the gospel. They are passionate about maximizing reach and can sometimes emphasize breadth over depth, eager to harness the capabilities of AI and other innovations.
- **Rooted Shepherd:** The Rooted Shepherd believes in the timeless methods of spreading the gospel. While not against technology per se, they prioritize the personal touch and depth of the message, often viewing rapid tech solutions with skepticism.
- **Discerning Guide:** Rooted in tradition yet open to change, the Discerning Guide values the authentic essence of the gospel above all. They are aware of both the benefits and the risks of using AI in ministry, and approach technology with caution, thoughtfully weighing theological concerns and long-term impacts before adopting new tools. At times, their drive for authenticity can cost them opportunities to save time and increase their impact.



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2. How can AI extend our reach to individuals outside our immediate community, enabling us to share our message with a wider audience?

3. How might increased reliance on AI affect the genuine human connections that define our community? How can we ensure that technology doesn't replace the warmth and authenticity of personal interactions?

4. What role should discernment play in our relationship with AI? How can we navigate the fine line between embracing technology and becoming overly dependent on it? What, if any, are the long-term formation risks of over-dependence?

5. Which of the following uses of AI are we comfortable exploring? Which others come to mind?

- Poems for Members - Personalize a poem for each congregant on their birthday
- Sermon-based Content Creation- Develop application points or small group questions based on human-made sermons
- Sermon Creation - Create a sermon from start to finish
- Analyzing Giving Patterns - Analysis of financial giving data
- Predictive Analytics for Divorce - Predicting the likelihood of divorce within your congregation

*For further examples of AI uses and tools for each area of ministry, consider passing around a copy of [The AI Resource Wheel](#).*

6. What ethical considerations arise when using AI, including in the areas of data privacy and potential misuse of personal information?

7. How does AI align with our theological beliefs about human uniqueness, creativity, and the divine image?



# BUILDING YOUR AI POSITION STATEMENT

**ACTIVITY:** Go around the table and invite each person to share the top two values that would inform how they think about using AI in your ministry. Invite each person to express why they chose those values. Are there other values specific to your context that should be named?

- Cultivating authentic relationships
- Amplifying ministry impact
- Upholding the pastor's role as an educator and original thinker
- Streamlining operational efficiency
- Ensuring Spirit-led sermon preparation
- Expanding reach through technology
- Preserving intellectual integrity with attribution and citation
- Delivering personalized messaging
- Boosting content production

## My Top Two Values:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes:

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List 3 potential risks or concerns that you have for your ministry when you think about the potential impacts of AI.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# PUTTING IT INTO ACTION

**Congratulations!** Your team has demonstrated a commitment to the responsible use of AI by starting an important conversation. Now, you might consider initiating a conversation with your broader congregation. Not sure where to start? Here are some ideas:

1. Use the template below to develop and share your AI Position Statement.
2. Cover the topic in your next member meeting to ensure that all of your volunteer leaders are included in these important conversations and equipped with a common understanding.
3. Create a video with your team explaining the position statement to share at the beginning of your next service—this is an easy way to ensure everyone gets the same message all at the same time!



## AI & OUR CHURCH POSITION STATEMENT TEMPLATE

Recently, our team engaged in a thorough values-based discussion around the use of AI in our ministry during which we attempted to understand a variety of perspectives.

Because we prioritize the following core values: *[insert specific core values]*, and are open to the responsible use of AI technologies to increase ministry impact, we may use tools to assist our teams in the following ministry areas *[insert ministry areas]*. More specifically, we may explore the use of the following tools: *[list AI tools]*.

We believe that the use of these tools will help us serve you better by *[insert the value for the congregation]*. We are aware of the following risks related to these tools: *[insert risks and concerns]* and we are committed to taking the following actions to ensure that every member is protected and respected: *[insert action steps]*.

We anticipate continuing this conversation and remain committed to the responsible use of technology to advance our mission.



# READY TO LEARN MORE? TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PRACTICAL RESOURCES

- [AI and the Church](#)  
Gloo's AI & the Church initiative focuses on how AI-driven solutions can empower organizations to create personalized and meaningful connections with their audiences, ultimately fostering a positive impact.
- [The Research Behind This Initiative](#)  
Explore what we learned from listening to church leaders and AI experts, and the framework that we developed to support conversations in the Church.
- [Barna CoLab: AI & Tech in Your Church](#)  
The Barna CoLab delves into the intersection of faith and technology, exploring the implications of AI on faith communities and highlighting innovative ways technology can enhance ministry experiences
- [Carey Nieuwhof Podcast: Bobby Gruenewald on Leveraging First Mover Advantage, Innovation, AI, Technology and the Future Church](#)  
This podcast episode, hosted by Carey Nieuwhof, features insightful discussions on how innovation happens, what's next in AR, AI, machine learning and the intersection for church leaders in leadership and ministry.
- [Andy Crouch | Should Pastors use ChatGPT & AI?](#)  
In this podcast episode, Andy Crouch contemplates the ethical considerations of pastors using AI, raising questions about the appropriate integration of AI into ministry and relationships.
- [AI Artwork and the Christian Imagination](#)  
This article explores the intersection of AI-generated artwork and the Christian imagination, delving into the ethical and theological considerations surrounding the creation of art through artificial intelligence.