



Active Gospel

Leadership Review Checklist

Use these prompts with elders, staff, or ministry leads before adopting AI in sermon prep, communications, discipleship content, or pastoral workflows.

- Where may AI assist, and where must it stay out?
- Who reviews doctrine, Scripture use, and tone?
- What content needs pastoral or elder approval?
- How will private church data be protected?
- How often will the policy be revisited?

Start here: review these guardrails, adapt them to your church, and write down what responsible AI use means before tools become habits.

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Why guardrails matter

AI can assist ministry work. It cannot carry ministry authority.

For churches, the question is not only whether AI is useful. The deeper question is whether its use remains accountable to Scripture, prayerful leadership, pastoral care, and the actual people God has entrusted to the church.

- Treat every AI output as draft material.
- Review theology before sharing content.
- Keep the church's voice and context visible.
- Name what AI may never decide for the church.

Simple test: If you would not publish it under pastoral responsibility, do not publish it because AI produced it quickly.



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Pastor-facing conversation guide

AI Guardrails for Faithful Churches

A practical tri-fold guide for using AI as a ministry assistant without handing over spiritual responsibility.

Built to help pastors and church leaders start a thoughtful review, not to replace local wisdom.

1

Pastoral responsibility stays with people.

AI can organize notes, suggest angles, and reduce blank-page friction. It cannot pray, shepherd, repent, discern a congregation's needs, or answer to God for what is taught.

- The pastor or approved ministry leader owns the final message.
- AI drafts are reviewed, edited, and rejected when needed.
- Do not use AI to simulate a pastor's conviction or personal story.
- Never let speed outrank prayer, wisdom, and care.

Guardrail question: Would we be comfortable explaining this use of AI to our church with plain language?

2

Scripture must be handled accurately.

AI can summarize, compare, and surface questions. It must never become the source of authority for interpretation, application, quotation, or doctrine.

- Check every passage reference before use.
- Use the church's chosen Bible translation consistently.
- Do not present paraphrases as direct quotations.
- Flag unclear or disputed interpretations for human review.

Guardrail question: Has a qualified person checked the biblical text, context, and application?

3

Church context and conscience shape use.

Faithful AI use should fit the church's doctrine, pastoral tone, privacy commitments, and ministry setting. A generic tool should never flatten a local church's convictions.

- Name doctrinal boundaries before asking AI to draft.
- Avoid content that speaks beyond the church's settled convictions.
- Protect sensitive pastoral, member, and staff information.
- Review outputs for tone: clear, truthful, humble, and local.

Guardrail question: Does this output sound like faithful ministry from our church, or just polished generic content?