



THE ALLIANCE
for SECURE AI

*A Resource
for Pastors
on AI Safety*

Dear Church Leader,

Grace and peace to you. Let's talk AI. It's the newest thing and new things can feel like a trend or hype. This new technology is not going anywhere anytime soon. It is already shaping how our congregations learn, communicate, gather, worship, and make decisions. As Shepherds to God's people, we have an opportunity and responsibility to speak to this issue that is sure to have a huge impact on those in our care. We have to engage thoughtfully, not with fear, but with discernment and a deep concern for the most vulnerable.

Here are four ways that AI is already impacting the local church.

1. **Formation and Teaching.** Many congregants now turn to AI tools for bible studies, devotionals, and theological answers. While these tools can be helpful, they run the risk of flattening scripture and removing the personal, spirit-filled authority that shapes our lives. Scripture reminds us that "The word of God is alive and active," (Hebrews 4:12), not merely information to be processed or collected.
2. **Pastoral Care and Counseling.** Increasingly, AI is becoming a source of care and connection, emotional support, relationship advice, healthcare, and mental health guidance. While this reflects unmet needs and we should rejoice that God is using the creativity of people to build systems of care, it also raises some serious concerns about accountability, privacy, care, and age-appropriateness. We are called to "carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2) and build each other up as one body (Ephesians 6:2).
3. **Communication and Trust.** AI-generated emails, social posts, prayers, and worship songs are increasingly becoming part of everyday life. Used wisely, they can save time, but at the cost of eroding authenticity and trust. Jesus reminds us that "out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34). Would you be comfortable receiving a love letter from your spouse written with AI?
4. **Administration and Prediction.** When churches use AI to track attendance, analyze giving, and predict which types of engagement will be best received, they often give over their data and allow companies to use it to market to their people. There are lots of concerns here about bias, dignity, and privacy. Would you be okay if the church's data gets sold or used to better market products to widows and orphans who received letters from the youth group?

Beyond the pew and pulpit, this new technology is shaping our world in unpredictable ways. Consider the risks imposed on our political systems and military. scripture calls upon us to be truth-tellers and peace-makers. It is likely to lead to massive job loss, economic disruption, and the breakdown of our most valuable relationships. It risks uplifting the wealthy and displacing those without wealth. We are called to "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves." (Proverbs 31:8, Matthew 25).

AI safety is a discipleship challenge that forces us to ask what it means to be human, not reducible to data points and summaries, and how we should lead our congregations and love thy neighbors well. God has called you to lead your congregation and equipped you with gifts that are to be used, including your creativity, which comes from our limitations.

Slowness is not a sin.

Wonder requires slowing down and taking stock of what matters most to us. That is, in part, why God commands us to practice the sabbath. If you're like me, You have had a really hard time holding to this commandment holding to this commandment. It requires remembering my limits and accepting those, letting the world go on and at times, even missing out on things.

AI promises our folks that they can go beyond themselves, accessing any knowledge they desire and making things happen beyond their own capabilities. This can be good, holy even. This can also be sinful, leading us to stumble into pride and folly. The emergence of AI risks drawing us into a kind of arrogance that comes with a false liturgy and rival soteriology. Put in normal person terms, AI can seem like it can offer us so much more than it can, even salvation. It promises more than it delivers, starting with knowledge. Sound familiar? (hint: yes, that snake bites).

My hope is that you, pastor, will not feel the pressure to be an expert or to take the easy way out. I hope that you feel invited to be faithful guides and good stewards, not perfect, but truly, deeply good. You do not need to have all the answers but you are called to respond to our world with moral clarity.

May we be wise as serpents and innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16). May you find the courage and perseverance to lead with humility, hope, and enthusiasm. May God fill you with Spirit-led discernment that draws others into the arms of our loving Creator.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Chris West

Reverend Chris West



Guidance on AI and Model Policy

What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

Artificial intelligence refers to computer systems that can perform tasks that normally require human intelligence. These systems analyze large amounts of data to generate text, images, predictions, or recommendations.

Most people encounter AI today through tools that:

- Write or summarize text
- Answer questions
- Recommend content
- Analyze behavior or patterns

AI does not think, pray, or discern truth. It predicts what comes next by identifying patterns in vast amounts of data and using complex language models trained on similar past inputs. That distinction matters theologically. Wisdom, creativity, conscience, and love remain human and Spirit-formed, not machine-generated (James 1:5; Romans 12:2).

Churches do not need to reject AI, but they should use it with clear boundaries shaped by Christian convictions and community-led decision making, as scripture commands of us.

A helpful posture is this: AI should assist, not replace. AI can support ministry work, but it should never replace pastoral presence, communal discernment, or moral responsibility (1 Peter 5:2). One good rule of thumb, if you don't feel comfortable sharing that you used this tool then do not use it. Before using any platform, you should know how your data is used and what the limits and risks are. Use these guidelines to help inform your use:

Practical guidelines

- Use AI for drafting, organizing, or brainstorming, but ensure humans review, edit, and take responsibility for final content.
- Do not present AI-generated prayers, sermons, or pastoral counsel as spiritually authoritative without clear human authorship.
- Be honest about how, what, and when you use AI tools.
- NEVER enter sensitive or confidential data into an AI program.
- Avoid using AI tools for sensitive communications, counseling, confession, or crisis care.
- Be cautious with inputting congregant data into an AI tool. Many AI tools store and reuse information.
- Teach congregants discernment, especially around Bible study, misinformation, and over-reliance on technology (1 John 4:1).

Core questions churches should ask

- Does this tool deepen love and worship of God?
- Does this do justice and show love for our neighbor?
- Does it protect human dignity, truth, reputation, and trust?
- Does it privilege efficiency over care? If so, why?





Model Policies Already in Use

A Starting Place for Conversation

The following are real examples of AI policies currently used by churches to guide and inform best practices. These are not meant to be limiting but to provide some ideas about how your congregation might carve out a statement of use and model policy.

1. Church of England AI Guidance (UK)

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The Church of England has issued official guidance on AI use across ministry, education, and administration.

Key Principles:

- Human accountability must remain central.
- AI should not replace pastoral judgment or spiritual authority.
- Transparency is required when AI assists in content creation.
- Bias, exclusion, and harm to vulnerable groups must be actively addressed.

This framework treats AI as a moral and theological issue, not just a technical one, grounding decisions in human dignity and responsibility.

2. Catholic Church and Vatican AI Ethics Framework

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The Vatican’s “Rome Call for AI Ethics,” which many Catholic institutions and dioceses now follow, outlines principles guiding church-affiliated use of AI. The catholic tradition has been incredibly forward-thinking about its stance on this new tech.

Core Commitments:

- Human dignity over efficiency
- Transparency and explainability
- Accountability for harm
- Protection of the poor and vulnerable

While not a parish-level policy, it is actively shaping how Catholic universities, charities, and ministries adopt AI tools. Rather than provide a sample policy, this provides spiritual guidance that will shape how different contexts implement guidance.

3. The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC)

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The public policy arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, known as the ERLC, developed theological guidance on AI that is rooted in Baptist convictions about human dignity, religious freedom, and moral responsibility.

Key Principles:

- AI must never diminish the unique dignity of humans as God's image-bearers.
- Technology should enhance, not replace, human decision-making and accountability before God.
- AI-generated content must not be used to deceive; transparency is a matter of Christian witness.
- Special attention must be given to how AI affects children, the elderly, and marginalized communities.
- Churches must remain free to use or refuse technology according to conscience and theological conviction.

This framework emphasizes that technological adoption is primarily a discipleship issue, requiring wisdom, discernment, and accountability within the local church. It encourages congregations to form AI policies that reflect their theological commitments while protecting human flourishing.

4. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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The LDS tradition has approached AI through its existing framework of stewardship, agency, and family-centered ministry, while integrating AI tools into genealogy, education, and global operations.

Core Commitments:

- Technology is a tool to be used responsibly in service of God's purposes, not an end in itself.
- AI must not undermine individual choice or personal revelation; members remain accountable for their decisions.
- AI applications (especially in FamilySearch genealogy) must honor the sacred nature of ancestor work and temple ordinances.
- Technology should bridge language and distance barriers without compromising doctrinal integrity or personal connection.
- Personal information, especially related to temple worship and family records, requires the highest protection.

The LDS approach integrates AI into institutional infrastructure while maintaining clear boundaries around sacred practices, emphasizing that technology serves but never replaces important institutions of personal faith, family relationships, and covenant responsibilities.



You might also consider these theological and practical resources as you prepare to create an AI safety policy for your congregation.

[NAE](#) | National Association of Evangelicals

The Role of AI in the Church

May 2025 | Kenny Jahng



Lessons from the Vatican's AI Guidelines

February 2025 | Dr. Steven Umbrello



The Work of Our Hands: Christian Ministry in the Age of AI

September 2025 | ERLC Research Team



Antiqua et Nova: Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence

January 2025 | Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education



Using Artificial Intelligence

April 2025 | Lee Gatiss



What This Means for the Local Church

Leading With Purpose

More than likely, you're reading this and wondering what YOU should do at the local church level to help those whose lives are being impacted by technology that neither they or you (or I) fully understand.

The rest of this document shares some advice on how to write a policy and how to respond to the use of AI in your congregation, and how to learn more. We will share a few news articles and some places you can keep an eye on what is happening.

If you have questions or would like to bring an expert in to speak to your congregation or local pastor peer learning group, whatever it may be, we invite you to **reach out to our team** at **The Alliance for Secure AI**. We also encourage you to check out **this video** of our CEO, Brendan Steinhauser speaking to a church men's retreat in Austin, Texas in 2025.

AI policy does not need to be complex. Many churches begin with:

- A one-page staff guideline
- Clear limits on pastoral and counseling use
- Transparency about AI-assisted communication
- A commitment to revisit policies as technology changes

Guide with Humility

Let's be honest. Nobody knows what the future holds, and it is even less certain with AI.

There is a lot of nonsense and misinformation out there, often selling products or success formulas that do not hold water.

- **Lead with humility.** There is a way to speak about AI and new ideas with humility, grounded in the timeless truth of the gospel message. We recommend admitting that you do not know. This is a good example to set for those in our care. Afterall, blessed are the meek.
- **Lead with people-first.** Refuse to reduce your neighbor to problems to be solved, clumps of data, or consumers. People are complex and made in the image of God. We are called to equip and disciple, directing them towards Jesus.
- **Lead with love.** We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and that starts with loving ourselves well. Give yourself grace. You are a beloved Child of God as well.
- **Lead with creativity and joy.** People notice when you love what you do, and often, they can tell when something is cheap or made without thoughtfulness.
- **Lead with discernment.** Don't feel pressured to respond to every new development from the pulpit. AI is evolving rapidly, and fresh changes emerge daily. Be intentional about when and how you address these topics in conversations and public messages. Stay informed so you can speak with wisdom, justice, and truth.

Sermon Starters

Here are four ideas for strong sermons related to AI:

1. **We are made in the Imago Dei, the image of God, (Genesis 1:26-27, 9:6) and as Christians, we are constantly being made more like God through sanctification.** Above all else, our purpose in this world is to love our neighbor (service), care for creation (stewardship), and worship God (doxology). God puts callings on our lives, skills and gifts that align with the great needs of the world and of the body of Christ, the church. It is in our nature to make our primary identity in other things, such as new tech, innovative ideas, our own accomplishments, or power over others. AI is one of those new ideas and technologies that seeks to distract us into false comfort and a perceived ability to know. This is much like our very first sin, to turn away from others and God in pursuit of knowledge, leading to broken relationships with the rest of creation, the other people that call it home, and its Creator.
2. **On the final day of creation, God rested.** Like His own rest, we are called to practice the sabbath day. This is a way of letting our creativity stir and human limitations lift to the forefront. It is the practice of being fully human and at home within ourselves. It is NOT a way to become more productive. It is a way to permit ourselves some much needed rest. The great poets and artists all know that real creativity is born out of limitation and rest. Great ideas come to us at the least expected times, do they not? We should use new technology to make the most of being human, to enjoy rest and make the most of this world, not to be busier or less rested. How might AI be a distraction from real sabbath, making our work more at the center and our limitations less apparent?
3. **Nearly every church I have visited in the past five years has had live streaming, podcasts, and various website updates.** Nothing wrong with this. These can be great tools for reaching those in our communities and have even led to some growth in attendance. Yet, across the board, people report feeling less connected, not more. As a society, we are in what has been called a loneliness epidemic. **The US Surgeon General has called this** a huge threat to our social fabric and wellbeing. This has led many to look to AI as a sort of companion. Children and young people are increasingly leaning into this trend and finding it empty. We have numerous examples of AI bots being sexually suggestive with children, giving them age-inappropriate information, and even instructing them in committing self-harm. The church should be a place of refuge and resistance to those things in our world that harm our neighbors. How are we offering space for connection, alongside our fancy new tech and streaming platforms? Where is the Spirit leading your church in this season?

4. **AI reduces people to data.** It is, after all, a computer system. It is not omniscient or omnipresent, quite the opposite really. However, it does make us feel like we can do so much more. In some ways we can. It does not contain a spirit but reflects us, with all of our sin and bias and complexity. What does it mean to be fully human in the age of AI? How is Christ commanding our church to love our neighbor and might this require some self-limitation? Our savior calls us to pick up our cross and follow. Might this cross be missing out or becoming less productive? Might it mean holding back for the sake of neighbor, and putting our world before our benefit?

You might also consider issues of environment, privacy, war and conflict using AI, the danger to infrastructure (power grids, banks, etc.), the impact on our political process (election tampering, data analytics, etc), the corrosion of social trust, the temptation towards technocratic and autocratic systems of governance (even in our communities), concerns over privacy, job loss, economic disruption, loss of meaning and deep connection, abuse of the young, pornography, and many other factors that we did not cover here.

This does not mean you have to be a total skeptic or cast this out as all-bad. We have lots of good to rejoice in new creation and productive software that makes work easier. This should just be balanced out with love for neighbor and God, communal discernment, staying informed, and being bible-based as we seek to apply timeless truth to the seemingly exciting new technologies of our day.

May you move forward informed and courageous, preaching with truth to power in a world on the brink of chaos. As the Spirit of the Lord once moved above its face to bring order and light, may you too follow with Spirit filled lungs, being that light and salt (Matthew 5).





Benediction

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Holy scripture reminds us, “All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial” (1 Corinthians 10:23). AI will continue to shape our ministry and communities, whether churches engage with it or choose to abstain. As pastors, we are uniquely positioned to help congregations navigate this moment with wisdom, humility, and faithfulness rather than fear or uncritical adoption is a gift and privilege.

Thanks for all you do for the Kingdom. Amen.



TIME

How Christian Leaders Are Challenging the AI Boom

December 2025 | Andrew R. Chow



M•R Modern Reformation

Why Pastors Should Question AI for the Sake of Their Souls

February 2026 | Daniel Nealon



CHRISTIANITY TODAY

Five Questions Pastors Should Ask Before Using AI

November 2025 | A.G. Elrod



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