

Finding a Flexible, Cloud Accounting System

Grace Fellowship Church



Challenges

Grace Fellowship Church is a 1600-member multi-campus church in Maryland with \$3.6 million in annual contributions. Its administrative office handles accounting for the organization's individual campuses, as well as early stage nonprofit startups such as mission ministries and other faith-based groups. The church's finance team provides financial fiduciary support as these new organizations get off the ground – managing their fund accounting, contributions, and payroll until they obtain 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

Previously, Grace Fellowship used ACS Financial Suite, an on-premise church financial management solution, to support these processes.

Company Overview

Grace Fellowship Church was founded 30 years ago by four couples dreaming of a new kind of church. Over the years, Grace Fellowship has grown significantly into a multi-campus church serving thousands of members in Maryland.



However, the rigid system made it difficult for the organization to produce the reports it needed, or to provide on-demand visibility to key stakeholders. In addition, ACS necessitated time-consuming manual data entry because it didn't allow finance users to copy journal entries, set up recurring entries, or import data from other systems. As the church expanded, it looked for a new financial system that would streamline fund accounting and activity-based budgeting, as well as offer real-time financial performance insight.

“As a nonprofit, we don't have the luxury of a large staff or IT budget, and we needed a financial system that would be less cumbersome to use and maintain,” said Stacie Porter, Director of Finance, Grace Fellowship Church. “We knew cloud computing could lower our IT costs, and we and evaluated both NetSuite and Intacct as possible replacements for ACS. We found Intacct to be superior for its depth of functionality, support for fund accounting, and overall flexibility, and automation capabilities.”

Executive Summary

Previous Software:

- ACS Financial Suite

Results with Sage Intacct:

- Eliminated over 1,000 hours of administrative work every year
- Minimized finance staffing to save over \$22,000 annually
- Easily track, manage and report on multiple funds, projects and statistical indicators



Solutions

Streamlined Financial Processes Save Both Time and Money

With Intacct, Grace Fellowship Church increased operational efficiencies by replacing several manual financial processes with automated workflows. Intacct helps the church better manage its own fund accounting, payroll, accounts payables, contributions, and activity-based budgeting, as well as all accounting processes for the smaller organizations it sponsors.

The church has dramatically streamlined its accounts payables (A/P) process through seamless integration between Intacct and Bill.com's paperless payment system. Department administrators now scan invoices directly into Bill.com. The central finance team reviews and approves payments in Intacct, and everyone has real-time visibility into which bills have been paid and which are outstanding. Grace Fellowship also connected Intacct with Tallie to help process credit card expense reports – aiding the church in its goal to go paperless.

Intacct's Project Accounting software brings all of the church's project data into one place so it can better manage financials and resources across programs. By allowing Grace Fellowship Church to tag every expense, Intacct has greatly advanced the organization's budgeting and reporting capabilities. The team quickly creates individual income statements and balance sheets for every campus in Intacct, allowing for complete visibility into the entire organization.



Results



By leveraging the multi-dimensional data available in Intacct, Grace Fellowship has improved its stewardship of church funding. “With our previous system, our church directors would receive a financial update each month, but not for two weeks after each close cycle,” commented Porter. “By comparison, Intacct gives us a modern system with all the financial information we need immediately at our fingertips.”

Grace Fellowship is also utilizing Intacct’s role based, customizable dashboards to gain real time financial and operational insights. Church directors can get a complete view of their key metrics without waiting for someone in finance to print a report or track down information. Intacct’s dashboards allow them to drill-down into the underlying data and gain deeper insight into the charges that impact their actuals-to budget contributions, year-to-date spending, and year-over year variance for individual projects or programs. In addition, by tracking statistical figures like attendance in Intacct, the finance team can monitor calculations such as average giving per person.

“With granular data on the costs of each program, our administrators can create and manage their budgets down to the project or event level,” shared Porter. “This helps us make better informed spending decisions in every way.”



About CompuData

CompuData is a Woman Owned Business Technology Company and Partner for Cloud Hosting, ERP Solutions, IT Security and Managed IT Services. With nearly five decades as a business technology innovator, CompuData offers an unparalleled spectrum of Accounting Financial Software and IT Solutions that are fundamental to business operational growth, efficiency and profitability. Everything we do is built around two-way collaboration with our customers. Our team takes a proactive and strategic approach to solving customer problems and creating solutions that will improve business processes and operations. Our people, technologies, and customers - Work Smarter...Together.

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About the Author

The author of this document, Sage Intacct, is the innovation and customer satisfaction leader in cloud Financial Management. Sage Intacct enables data-driven finance leaders to automate complex processes, consolidate data across many legal entities in minutes, become GAAP-compliant, and make strategic decisions using custom dashboards.

