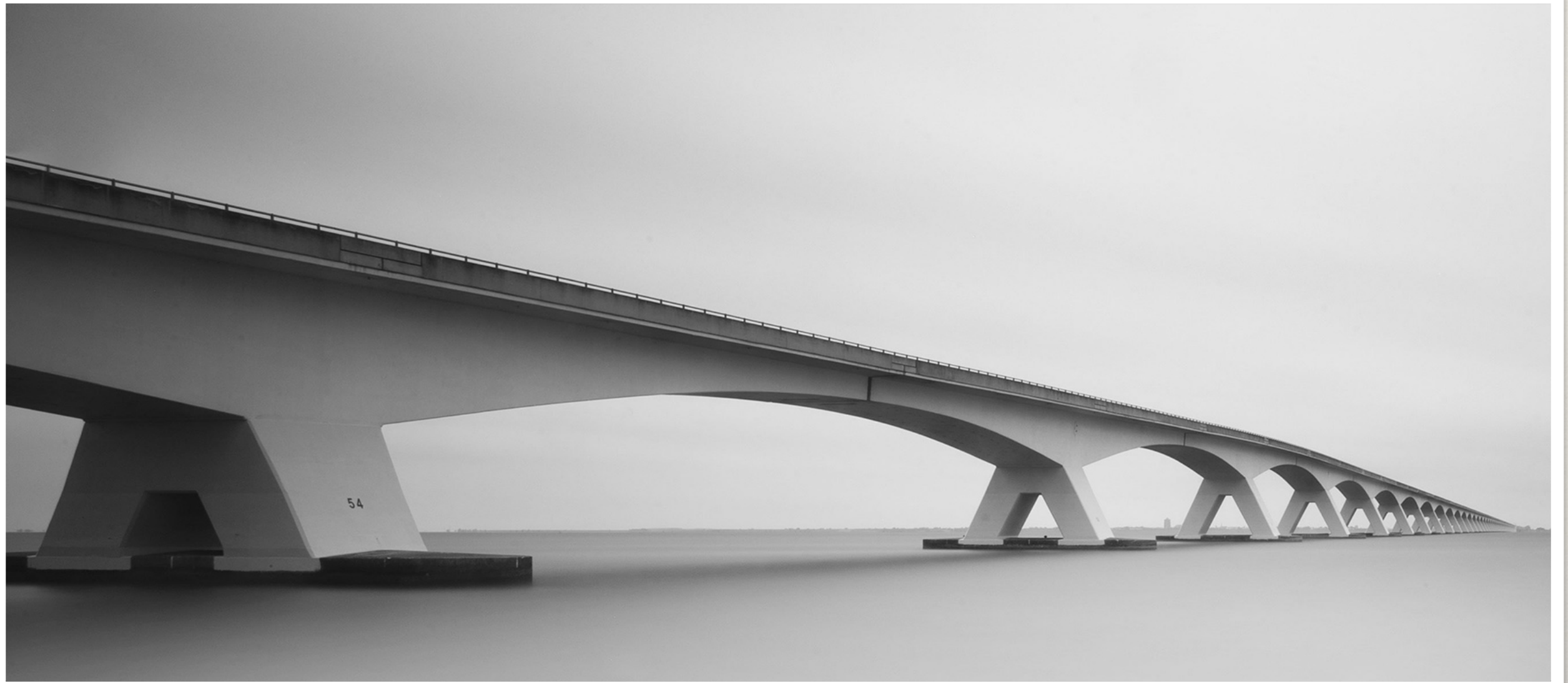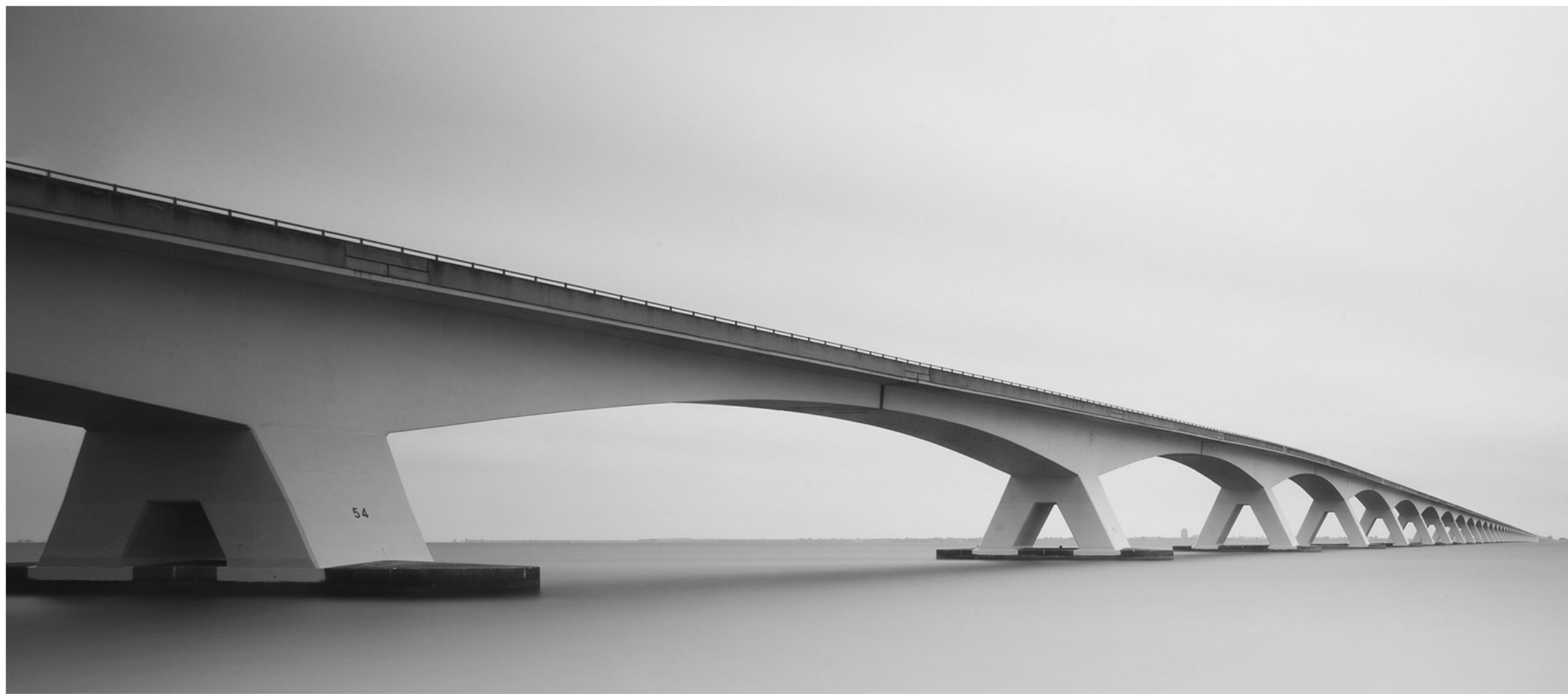# Embracing the Digital Calling

Technology in Churches Today and the Future

2025 Walter Cade Jr. Southwest Laymen Workshop
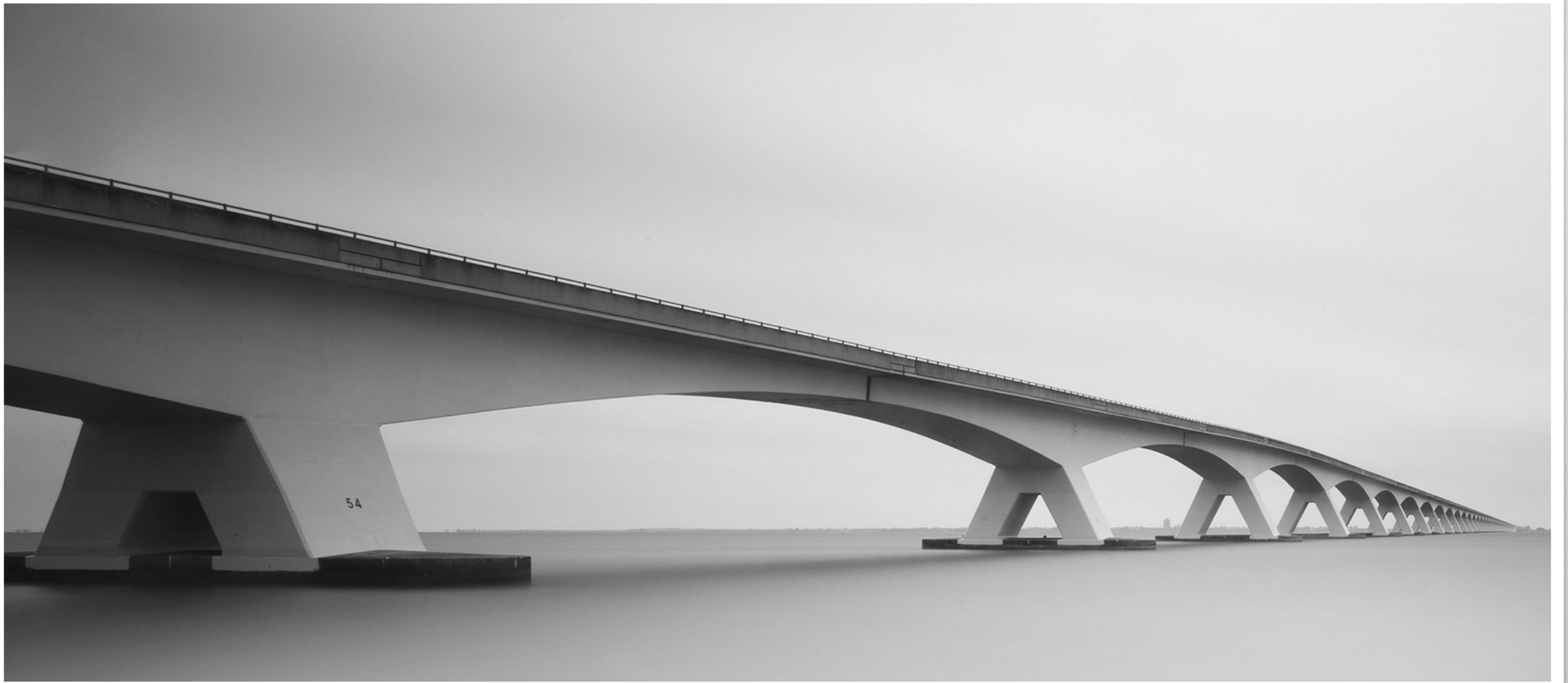
Carl Harris

BBA in Computer Science, BA, Software engineer/ Developer, Manager, Director, VP/Industry Leader

Carl Harris

Acxiom, HealthScope Benefits, Delta Dental, HP Enterprise, DXC Technology, Gainwell Technologies

Carl Harris

AT&T, IBM, Dell, 3COM, Apple, Oracle, GE, Cisco, D&B, CitiBank

Carl Harris

Child of God, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Son, member GPPBC, Golden Rule District, Deacon, & IT staff member

Course Objectives

Students will develop a greater appreciation on how todays technology can benefit the church and all ministries

Course Rules

❖ Every Question is a step toward understanding

❖ If you're thinking it, someone else probably is too.

❖ The only bad question is the one not asked

❖ TEXT question to **501-402-0741**

Seriously, no judgment - ask anything

Class Outline

- Open Scriptures

- Class Topics

  - Technology in Churches Today

  - Challenges and Concerns

  - Future Trends

  - Laymen's Role

- Next Steps - What are you going to do?

Foundation to Grow Technology

MATTHEW 28:16-20

❖ Great Commission: *Go make disciples of all nations*

Jesus tells us to go out and make disciples of all nations – to spread the Word to people wherever they are. These days, people spend an increasing amount of time on their laptops, tablets and smartphones. Should we not use the technology available to us and meet them there? We are called to extend the message to people wherever they are, and technology allows us to do exactly that.

Times are Changing

1 CORINTHIANS 9 : 22

❖ *Become all things to all people*

Encourages the church to use every available and appropriate tool — including technology — to meet people where they are and bring them closer to Christ. As long as the message remains true to the Gospel, the method (including digital and technological means) can and should evolve.

God can use digital tools
to advance the Gospel

Q & A

Open Floor
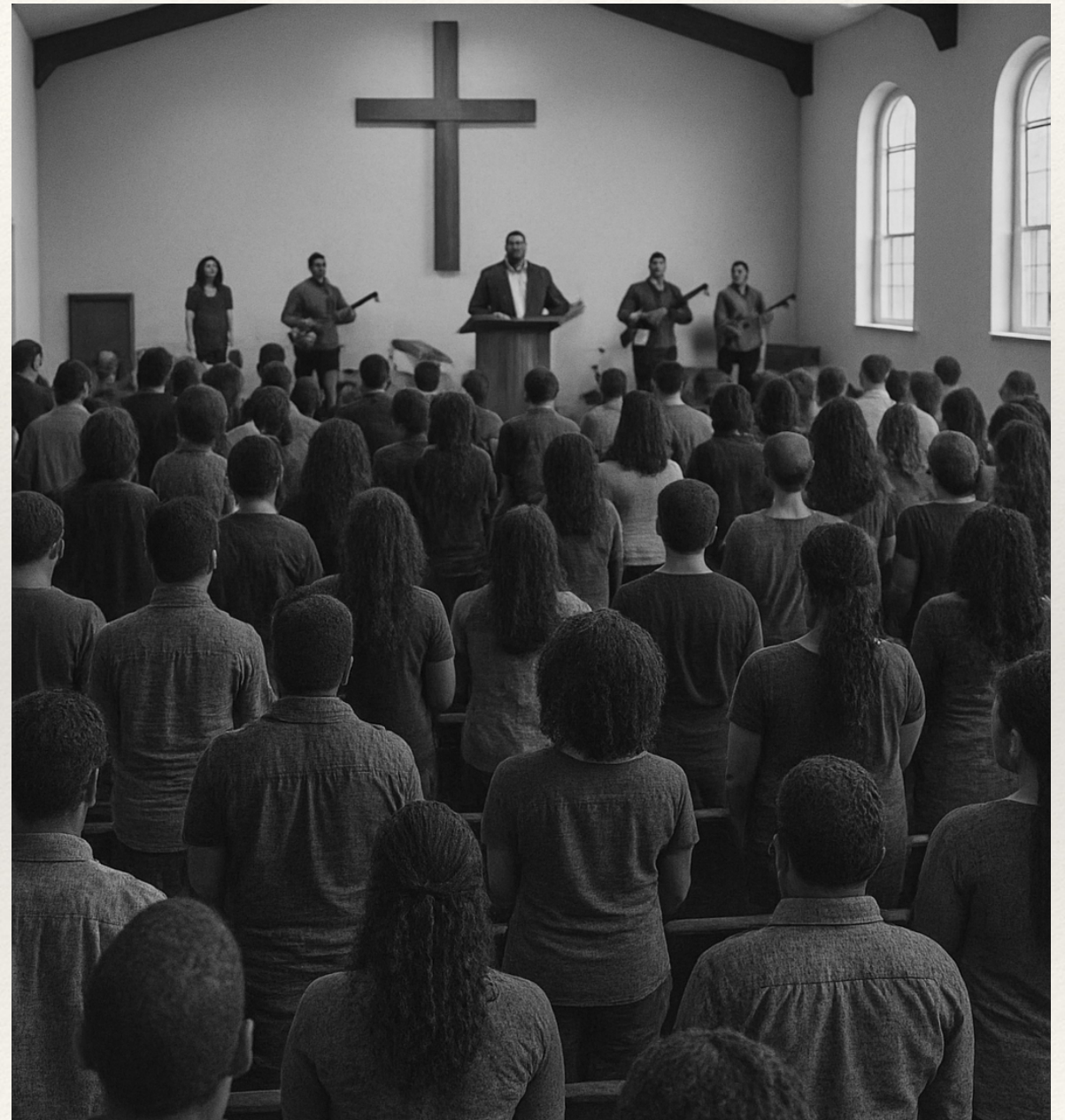
Or

TEXT question to
501-402-0741

Technology in Churches Today

- Church Services
- Communication
- Administration
- Discipleship

Church Services

- Sunday School

- Worship Services

- Bible Studies

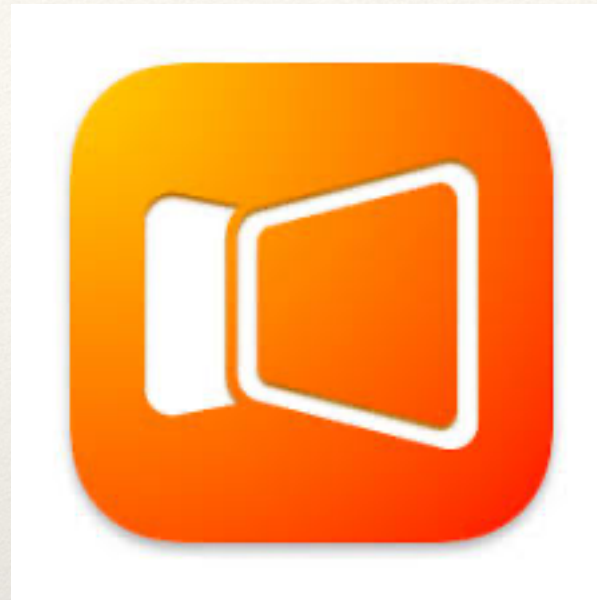- Ministries Meetings

- Business Meeting

Church Services

- **Live-streaming**
- Projection
- Sound Systems
- Online Meetings

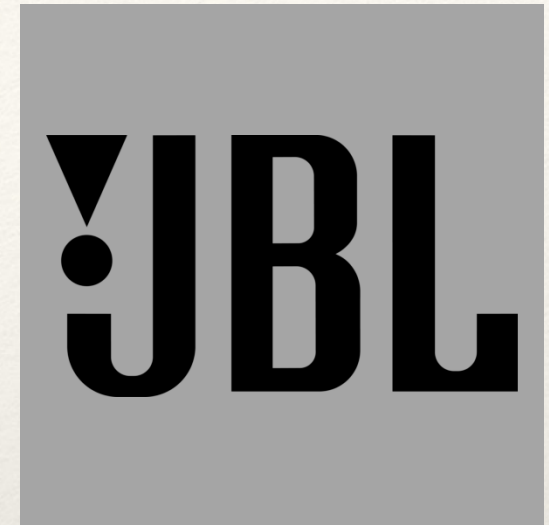# Church Services

- ❖ Live-streaming
- ❖ **Projection**
- ❖ Sound Systems
- ❖ Online Meetings

Church Services

- ❖ Live-streaming
- ❖ Projection
- ❖ **Sound Systems**
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Church Services

- Live-streaming
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Q & A

Open Floor

Or

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Church Communication

- **Social Media**
- Newsletter
- Texting
- Apps
- Website

Church Communication

- Social Media
- **Newsletter**
- Texting
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- Website

Church Communication

- ❖ Social Media
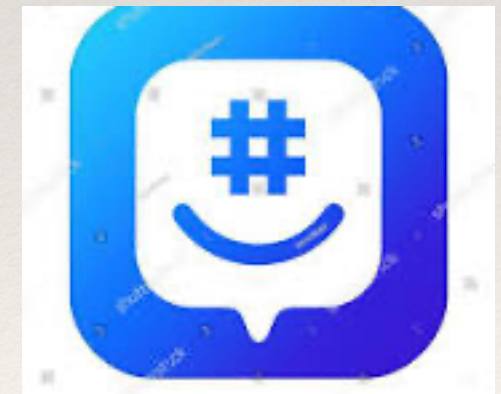- ❖ Newsletter
- ❖ **Texting**
- ❖ Apps
- ❖ Website

Church Communication

- Social Media
- Newsletter
- Texting
- **Apps**
- Website

Communication

Social media if done right can be more successful at keeping people informed than any church bulletin

Every organization" including the church who needs to get the word out about its upcoming events or service" there is no better way to get the message to millions of people than through a social media.

The best part is that the word can be spread through social networking for free.

❖

Church Communication

- ❖ Social Media
- ❖ Newsletter
- ❖ Texting
- ❖ Apps
- ❖ **Website**

Q & A

Open Floor

Or

TEXT question to
501-402-0741

BREAK TIME

10 Minutes

Times are Changing

PROVERBS 11:14; 29:18

❖ *no vision, the people perish:*

Vision is key to a thriving church. Technology, when aligned with God's Word, becomes a vehicle to carry that vision—whether through streaming services, online discipleship tools, or digital outreach—so that people are spiritually nourished and not lost in the absence of direction.
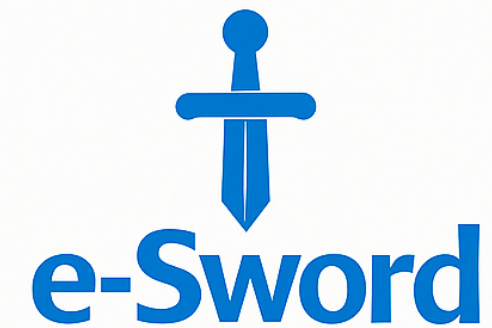
Administration

- Online giving
- Church membership
- Bookkeeping

Discipleship

❖ Bible Apps

❖ Group Studies

Times are Changing

COLOSSIANS 1:27-29

❖ *warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ."*

❖ Today, technology becomes a modern tool to do the same—proclaiming Christ globally, teaching with wisdom, and equipping believers for maturity. Just as Paul labored with all his energy to fulfill his calling, we can steward digital tools to extend that same mission in our time, reaching people in ways Paul never could have imagined.

Challenges and Concerns

- ❖ Digital distraction in worship services

- ❖ Tech assessment

- ❖ Digital divide within the congregation

- ❖ Engage youth in problem research

- ❖ Privacy/security issues

Challenges and Concerns

❖ Over-dependence on tech tools

❖ Lack of church leadership support

❖ Implementation of new technology

❖ Ownership

❖ Commitment

Future Trends

- ❖ AI and Chatbots for ministry support

- ❖ Virtual Reality in worship / teaching

- ❖ Mobile-first outreach

- ❖ Hybrid church models

- ❖ Data-driven ministry decisions

Your Role as a Layman

- ❖ Support and encourage tech use

- ❖ Stay open and teachable

- ❖ Lead or join digital outreach teams

- ❖ Bridge the generational tech gap

Technology in Churches Today

- ❖ Start small with free tools (Canva, Tithe.ly)

- ❖ Form a tech ministry team

- ❖ Encourage cross-generational training

- ❖ Set digital goals for outreach

Talents

1 CORINTHIANS 12:21

❖ *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"*

Every member of your congregation is blessed with a different set of skills and talents – embracing all of them is essential to building a strong community.

While you may excel in teaching or shepherding, others may find their strengths in technology. God bestowed each person with these gifts for a reason. Create an environment that encourages people to take advantage of their skillsets and use them in ways that glorify Him.

May God Bless Us On
this digital Journey
To Grow His Kingdom

THANK YOU!!!!