

The AI Intelligent Pastor

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Present by Church of God of Prophecy Global Communications

Artificial intelligence is already changing how we work, communicate, learn, and lead. How should pastors and Christian leaders respond?

As you watch, use this guide to capture key ideas and consider how AI might—or might not—fit into your ministry.

1 | AI IS ALREADY HERE

AI isn't simply something coming in the future. We already encounter it through search engines, social media, writing tools, email filters, phones, and countless everyday technologies. The challenge for the church is not deciding whether AI is good or bad. It is learning how to navigate these tools with wisdom and discernment.

From the COGOP AI Survey:

- 87% said churches need clear ethical guidelines for AI.
- 72% want training and resources for using AI wisely.

REFLECT

Why do you think AI is becoming a discipleship issue for the church?

2 | THINK ASSISTANT, NOT REPLACEMENT

Pastors carry many responsibilities: preaching, administration, communication, counseling, planning, teaching, and pastoral care. AI can help with some of that workload.

Think of AI as a fast assistant that can help with:

- Brainstorming and research
- Letters and emails
- Social-media content
- Administrative tasks
- Ministry ideas
- Graphics and presentation materials

But AI has significant limitations.

REFLECT

What is one ministry task you would be comfortable allowing AI to assist you with?

What is one ministry responsibility you would NOT want AI to replace?

3 | PROMPTS ARE EVERYTHING

AI works best when you clearly communicate what you need.

Tell AI about your:

Audience • Purpose • Context • Theology • Tone • Desired outcome

Don't assume an AI tool understands your theological convictions or ministry context.

Instead of: “Give me ideas about John 3.”

Try: “I am preparing to study John 3 from a Wesleyan-Holiness Pentecostal perspective. Help me explore the historical context, important words, original audience, and major theological themes. Cite sources I can verify.”

REFLECT

Why might theological context matter when prompting AI?

4 | AI + SERMON PREPARATION

AI can ASSIST sermon preparation. AI should not REPLACE sermon preparation.

A sermon isn't simply information arranged into an outline.

AI can assist with:

Historical context • Word studies • Illustrations • Object lessons • Quotations •
Research • Visual concepts

But sermon preparation still requires:

SCRIPTURE → STUDY → PRAYER → DISCERNMENT → PEOPLE

REFLECT

Where would you draw the line between AI assisting sermon preparation and AI doing the pastor's work?

5 | VERIFY, VERIFY, VERIFY

AI can confidently provide information that is incorrect. It can even generate quotations, citations, or sources that sound legitimate but do not exist.

A good ministry practice is: ASK → RESEARCH → VERIFY → DISCERN

Check quotations.

Check sources.

Check Scripture references.

Compare theological claims with Scripture and trusted resources.

REFLECT

What could happen if a pastor publicly shares AI-generated information without verifying it?

6 | AI CANNOT BE YOUR PASTOR

People may increasingly turn to AI because it is immediate, available, and private. But information is not the same as pastoral care. AI can provide information about grief. It cannot sit beside someone who is grieving. AI can provide Scriptures about a difficult situation. It cannot personally pray with someone. AI can provide advice. It cannot truly know the person behind the question.

REFLECT

How can churches help people use AI without allowing technology to replace Christian community?

7 | PEOPLE BEFORE TECHNOLOGY

AI may make ministry more efficient, but efficiency is not the goal of ministry. Technology should help us serve people—not distance us from them.

Remember...

- People before platforms.
- Relationship before efficiency.
- Discernment before convenience.
- Mission before technology.

REFLECT

Which statement above is most important to you? Why?

8 | THE PASTOR OF THE FUTURE

The most important skills for ministry in an AI age may not be technological skills at all.

- DISCERNMENT — What is true and biblical?
- COMMUNICATION — Can I communicate truth clearly?
- RELATIONSHIPS — Do people know I genuinely care?
- ADAPTABILITY — Am I willing to keep learning?
- WISDOM — Do I know when and how to use these tools?

FINAL REFLECTION

After watching this webinar, what is ONE way you want to explore AI?

What is ONE boundary you believe should guide your use of AI?

What is ONE question about AI and ministry you still have?

RESOURCES MENTIONED

- ChatGPT — OpenAI
General-purpose AI assistant for brainstorming, writing, research assistance, projects, images, and ministry workflows.
chatgpt.com
- Claude — Anthropic
AI assistant recommended during the discussion particularly for writing and natural-language content.
claude.ai
- Gemini — Google
Google's AI assistant, discussed for research and visual applications.
gemini.google.com
- NotebookLM — Google
- Research and study tool that works from source material you provide, including documents and selected websites.
notebooklm.google.com
- Perplexity
- AI-powered research tool highlighted for source-supported research.
perplexity.ai