# 10.04.2026: McKnight AV / Worship Needs – Defining Requirements Before Solutions

From: M Bret Blackford (bret_blackford@yahoo.com)
To: aowens@mcknightcrossings.org; kmyers@mcknightcrossings.org; jmcglawn@mcknightcrossings.org
Cc: bret_blackford@yahoo.com
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Andrew, Jeff McGlawn, Kaylynn,

I'd like to find some time for us to meet and discuss McKnight's AV needs for Sunday worship.

I think there are two related, but distinct, questions that we need to keep separate:

**1. What do we want and need the Sunday worship experience to accomplish?**
**2. What technology, equipment, processes and resources are needed to accomplish it?**

Before we purchase equipment or engage consultants, I think we should first be clear about the requirements for #1.

We have had similar discussions in the past, including the:

- 2021 Assessment of Sunday Worship
- 2023 MX AV Team Review

Those documents are useful history, but I think it would be worthwhile to step back now and ask what our needs are **today**.

For this initial discussion, I intentionally started with a small group focused primarily on the worship experience and current operational needs. Once we have a clearer understanding of what we want to accomplish, we can bring in Brian and others with deeper technical expertise to help determine the best way to accomplish it.

As a starting point, I suggest we look at the following areas:

**1. Support / Reliability**

- Are our Sunday processes repeatable and reasonably easy to learn?
- Do we have adequate cross-training and backup?
- Where do we still have single points of failure?
- How quickly could we recover if a key piece of equipment failed?

**2. Audio**

- How does the room sound today?
- Are there recurring complaints or limitations?
- Is the current analog soundboard difficult to train volunteers on?
- Would a digital board improve repeatability, presets, troubleshooting and cross-training enough to justify a change?

**3. Video / Presentation**

- Are slides and other visual content sufficiently bright, clear and readable throughout the auditorium?
- How reliable and supportable are the current projectors?
- Are there things we want to display that the current system cannot handle well?

**4. Streaming / Online Worship**

- What do we want the livestream to accomplish?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Do we want primarily a clear sermon stream, or a more complete online worship experience?

- How easy is the current process for volunteers to operate and troubleshoot?

**5. Lighting / Worship Environment**

- Does our current lighting adequately support both in-person worship and video?
- Are the lighting controls easy enough for volunteers to operate consistently?
- Are there remaining limitations or pain points?

For each area, I think we should identify:

- what we ideally want,
- where we are today,
- what the actual gap is,
- how important that gap is, and
- what improvement would justify spending church resources.

For example, if our current projectors are producing a good image and can remain reliable with replacement lamps, then we should ask how much a new laser projector would actually improve the worship experience before spending perhaps $15,000–$20,000 or more. On the other hand, if reliability, image quality, supportability or volunteer operation is becoming a significant problem, replacement may make sense.

The same reasoning should apply to the soundboard, streaming equipment, lighting and other AV systems.

I don't think the goal should be to have the newest technology. The goal should be to have technology that **reliably supports worship, is reasonably simple for volunteers to operate and support, and represents good stewardship of church resources.**

We can start brainstorming by email, then meet as a small group to discuss and prioritize the needs. Once we have those requirements reasonably defined, we can involve the broader AV team and, if appropriate, consultants or vendors to help translate those requirements into technical options, specifications and costs.

**I would like us to leave this first discussion with a prioritized list of needs—not a list of equipment to buy.**

In other words: **define the need, identify the gap, prioritize the gap, then evaluate technology and cost.**

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