

Fredericksburg United Methodist Church

Local church takes advantage of nonprofit discount for Microsoft Office 365 to gain an enterprise level e-mail solution along with the latest Office software while staying within their budget.

Situation:

Located in Fredericksburg, Virginia, Fredericksburg United Methodist Church (FUMC) provides an opportunity for its over 2,500 members to join in a wide array of worship, fellowship, mission, and growth opportunities, along with special programs for children and youth.

FUMC originally utilized an in house Exchange Server to handle their staff e-mail. When the server began experiencing issues, they decided moving to a cloud e-mail service would be a better fit for them than going through costly repairs or upgrades to the server. After spending a year on Google Apps, however, they felt they needed an e-mail service that would provide richer functionality, especially surrounding their calendars. In addition, it was extremely important that their calendar and contact data be migrated to the new service along with their current e-mail to ensure the transition was as easy as possible for their team. And as their users had a variety of computers and operating systems, they hoped to bring everyone onto the most updated Office software possible and begin taking advantage of newer features.

Solution:

Trish Vaughn, the FUMC Trustee member in charge of Information Technology, knew about Microsoft Office 365 from a prior business engagement, so she looked into the possibility of taking advantage of it for the church. Trish shares on her selection, "I knew the church staff was already comfortable using Microsoft Office and accessing their e-mail using Outlook. I was also looking for a solution without additional hardware to maintain, that was easy to administer, and that would provide the flexibility to grow and expand in the future. Alleluia - Office 365 was the answer!" In addition, Microsoft would provide FUMC with a discount of over 75% on their Office 365 subscription.

Trish worked with deNuvem to put together a plan for a smooth, low-cost transition of their e-mail service to Microsoft Office 365's Exchange Online, along with an upgrade to their Office software. Trish says, "deNuvem took the time to make me comfortable and gave me the information I needed to get approval for the project from our Board of Trustees and the Church Senior Leadership."

Utilizing a third party mailbox migration solution recommended by Microsoft, MigrationWiz™, deNuvem migrated the majority of FUMC's mailbox contents from their Google Apps e-mail to Exchange Online prior to their move to the



Organization Profile:

For more than 200 years in the downtown of Fredericksburg, Virginia, FUMC has been committed to providing a church home where people can grow in faith, find real meaning in life, and connect with others in a vibrant faith community.

Business Situation:

FUMC was utilizing Google Apps to provide their e-mail service. While they saw the benefits of having their email in the cloud, they needed more robust functionality than this service offered. In addition, they wanted to bring their users up to the most current version of Office possible.

Solution:

FUMC implemented Microsoft Office 365's Exchange Online and Office Pro Plus, taking advantage of the greatly reduced pricing for nonprofits. They now have reliable access to their e-mail, contacts, and calendars across a variety of devices along with increased functionality and the latest Office software.

Benefits:

- Increased Access to Services
- New Productivity Tools
- Simplified Administration



service. After upgrading the necessary machines to Office Pro Plus, all that was left to do was quickly gather any new mailbox items, provide staff members with instructions for accessing Outlook Web Access from any machine they wished to use, and take the few steps needed to connect Outlook on their machines and mobile devices to the new service. “They were able to remotely set up email service, domain, and install all of our staff in a matter of days. Their patient support post-implementation has been exemplary for adoption by the staff in giving them the tools they want and more time to spend on the business of the church,” Trish reports on the migration.

Benefits:

Since moving to Office 365, Trish has seen a much happier and comfortable set of users within the church. In addition to the church team members taking advantage of increased access to the services and the new productivity tools, Trish is enjoying the simplified administration of Office 365.

Increased Access to Services

FUMC staff can now access their up-to-date e-mail, contacts, and calendar items anywhere they are, from any device. In addition to their machines at the church, they have connected their mobile devices to the new service, and even downloaded office to their home computers, giving them the ability to work from any location needed. The church’s Mac users have access to the same great tools and benefits through the service as well.

New Productivity Tools

With many users on updated Office Pro Plus software, FUMC was not only able to help bring everyone onto the same software versions, but also begin using the many new tools available with Office 365. Features like calendar sharing, accessing shared mailboxes, and using contact groups have become invaluable in the daily work of many team members.

Trish looks forward to the next stage of their Office 365 implementation and the introduction of SharePoint online. She says, “I had previously looked for cloud based productivity tools for the Board of Trustees for projects, calendaring, tasks and meeting notes. We were in the process of trying another tool, but Office 365 will allow a better solution because we will still be able to have the productivity tools we need, but not have the office staff login somewhere different or learn a new tool. It’s going to be a win-win!”

Simplified Administration

After a brief review with deNuvem, Trish has been able to begin managing user accounts on her own, including everything from adding a new account to resetting a forgotten password to connecting a mobile devices to the user’s account.

“I would recommend deNuvem as a professional, patient and technology savvy partner.”

Trish Vaughn, FUMC

For More Information:

For more information about deNuvem’s Microsoft Office 365 implementations and other services, contact Megan Hartman at 757-905-1291 or megan@denuvem.com. You can also visit us at www.denuvem.com.

For more information about FUMC, call (540) 373-9021 or visit their website at www.fumcva.org.