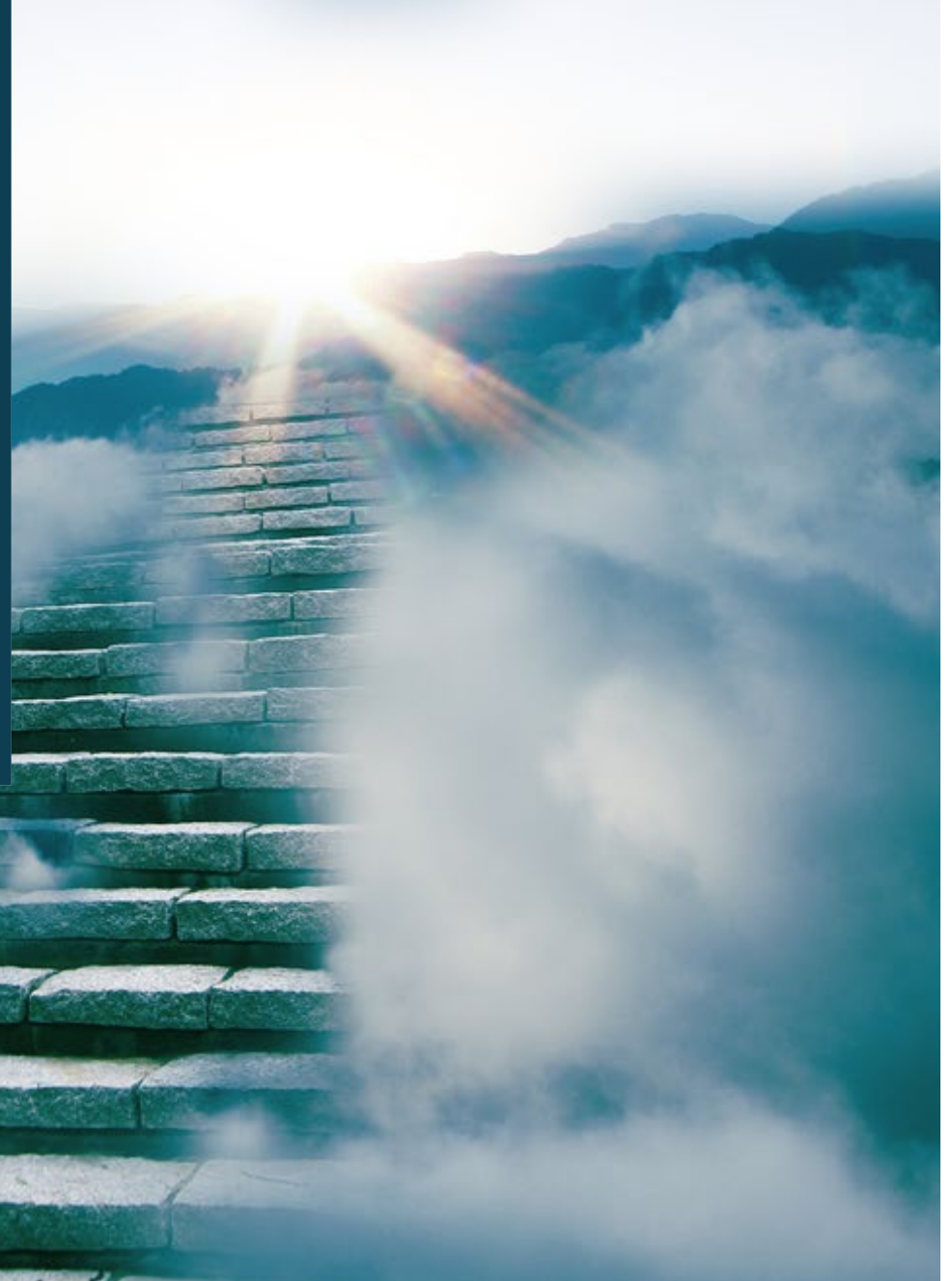


EBOOK

The Benefits of Cloud Accounting Software for Congregations and Faith Ministries

Nonprofit



- 1. Introduction:** Accounting in the modern era
- 2. Cloud Computing:** Why congregations and faith ministries are moving financial management to the cloud
- 3. Product Overview:** Sage Intacct for faith-based organizations
- 4. Features and Benefits:** Empowering the modern accounting team
- 5. Customer Success:** Stories from the cloud
- 6. Conclusion:** Strengthen stewardship and elevate your mission with Sage Intacct





Accounting in the modern era

You don't change accounting systems often.

However, as your congregation or faith ministry grows in size and complexity, you reach a point where manual, time-consuming processes drain your productivity, and flying blind – without real-time visibility into key metrics – and outcomes is stifling growth. As a good steward, you need a system that leverages the latest technology advancements.

At a minimum, a modern accounting system should automate and streamline core financial management functions such as Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, and Financial Close. But you can hardly fuel your growth and need for accountability and transparency by simply automating the minimum. Faith-based organizations have accounting, tracking, and reporting needs that require specialized functionality.

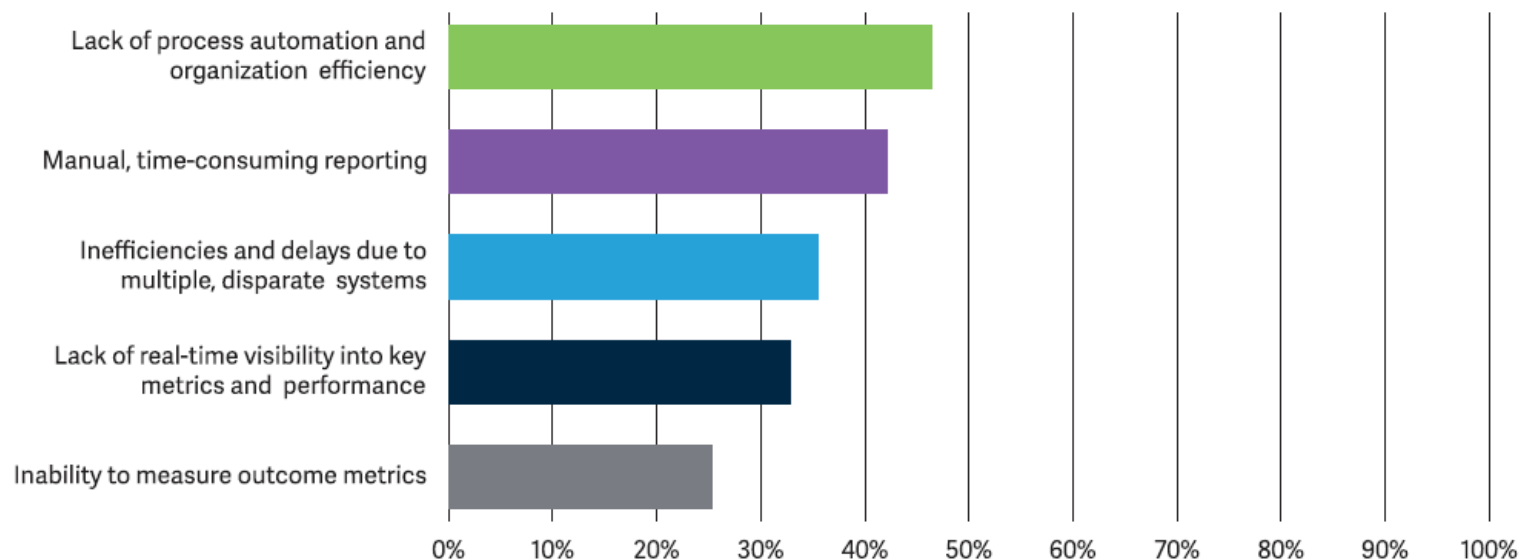
Today, inflexible, inefficient, and outdated on-premises software is rapidly being replaced by a new breed of modern cloud solutions. Over 90 percent of businesses report using cloud solutions today, and faith ministries are no exception.¹

The pains of dated technology

In addition to external pressures like increased competition for funding, economic shifts creating more demand for services, and government regulations, challenges with internal processes and technology are also creating barriers to mission success.

In a recent survey conducted by Sage Intacct², nonprofit and faith-based ministry finance leaders shared the internal and technology frustrations that were serious barriers to mission impact.

Top 5 technology frustrations nonprofit and faith-based ministry finance leaders are facing



Five reasons the cloud is right for congregations and faith ministries

1

You only pay for what you use

No more complex and costly IT infrastructure

2

Your data is safe in the cloud

Skilled cybersecurity engineers use sophisticated software to watch over data centers

3

It supports a mobile workforce

Staff and volunteers can access the system anytime and anywhere

4

You're always using the latest version

No more outdated software and painful upgrades

5

Integrated solutions for faith ministries

Open APIs let you use best-in-class apps (payroll, membership management, budgeting, etc.)

Sage Intacct for faith-based organizations

The AICPA's preferred provider of cloud financial applications.

Specializing in helping nonprofits of all types including congregations and faith ministries, Sage Intacct streamlines grant, fund, program, and donor accounting, while delivering real-time visibility into the metrics that matter.

Our modern, true cloud solution, with open APIs, gives faith-based organizations the connectivity, visibility, and efficiency they need to do more with less. At Sage Intacct, we help congregations and faith ministries strengthen stewardship, build influence, grow funding, and achieve mission success.



AICPA®

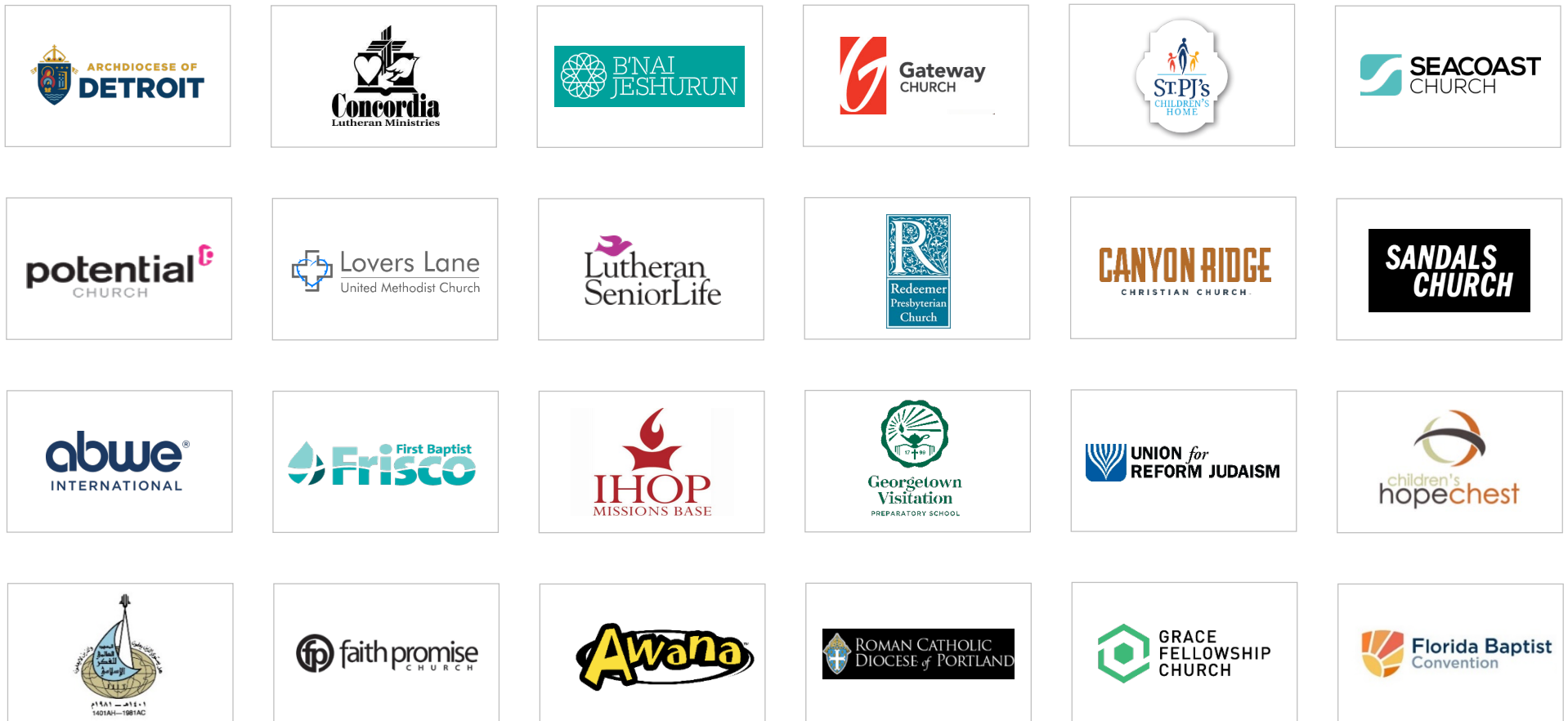
Business Solutions

Preferred Provider of Financial Applications



Congregations and faith ministries rely on Sage Intacct

Sage Intacct is rated #1 for customer satisfaction by G2³.



Why congregations and faith ministries love Sage Intacct

- ***Delivers immediate visibility*** into your financial data with easy-to-use, real-time financial and operational reporting and dashboards.
- ***Ensures control and compliance*** and reduces risk and cost with automated workflow and internal controls.
- ***Maximizes stewardship*** by automating grant, fund, and donor accounting.
- ***Streamlines reporting and compliance*** using built-in nonprofit-specific reports and compliant financial statements.
- ***Provides anytime, anywhere access*** for staff and volunteers, increasing finance department productivity by 30% or more.
- ***Reduces IT infrastructure*** costs and complexity.
- ***Integrates seamlessly*** with other critical business applications via an open API.

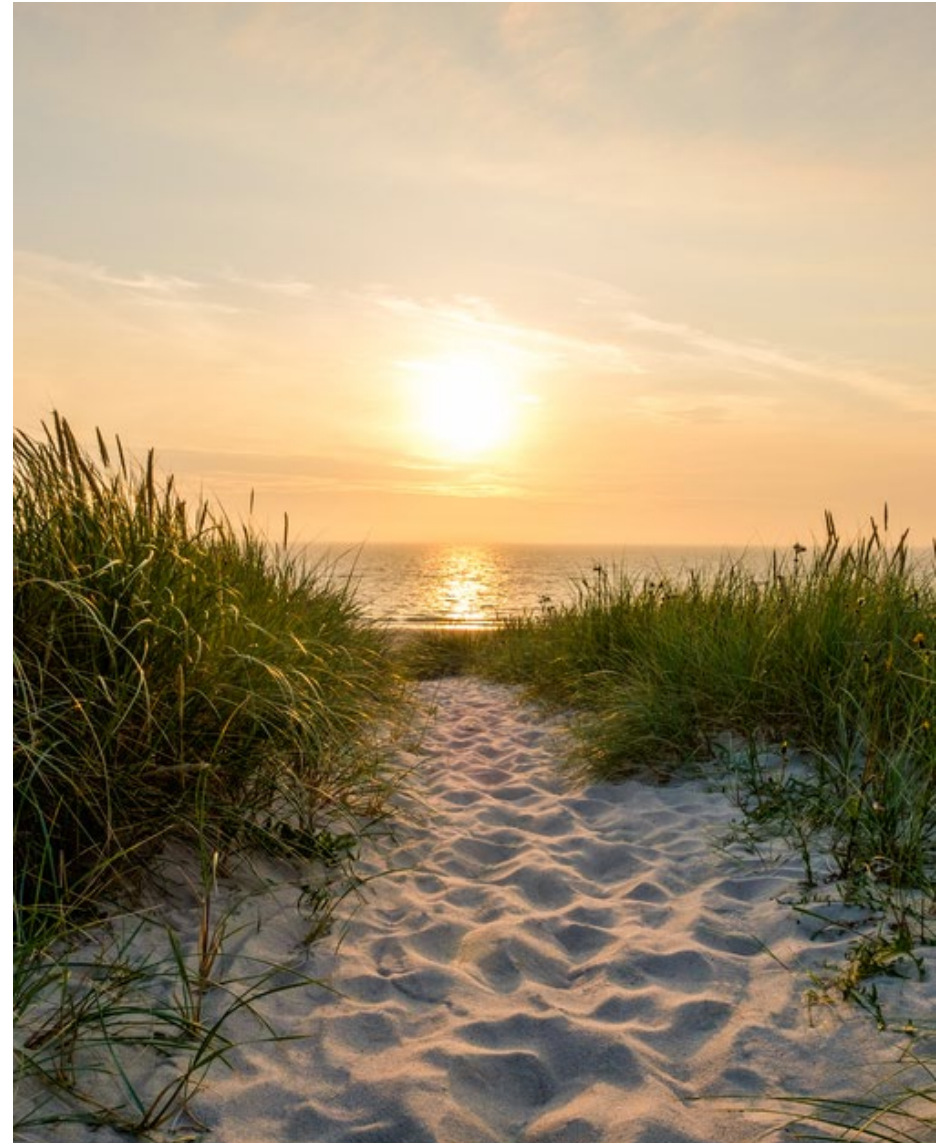


Seacoast Church relies on the flexibility of anytime, anywhere cloud computing during times of crisis

“Moving to a one hundred percent work-from-home arrangement has created very limited disruption with our finance team. We still have to physically pick up the mail but with Sage Intacct we have been able to completely manage the finances of our congregation remotely during the COVID-19 crisis. It’s business as usual for us. This is just another reason a cloud-based accounting system works for Seacoast.”



Glenn Wood
Pastor of Church Administration



[Read the full story](#)



Empower the modern accounting team

Sage Intacct makes your team more effective and efficient from day one.

With Sage Intacct, you can create tailored dashboards and reports—on the spot—that are relevant to your faith-based organization’s specific mission and operational measures.

Plus you can do your job from any browser and any device with confidence. This also allows you to easily provide views to non-finance personnel including the executive team, finance committee, and other key stakeholders within your organization that require insight for decision making, including full drill-down capability to source documents.

You can also empower non-finance personnel to initiate finance department interactions such as expense requests, check requests, purchase requisitions, budget to actual, and more with flexible electronic workflows, easy-coding rules, and anywhere access.

At Sandals Church, department and campus executives drive growth with real-time visibility

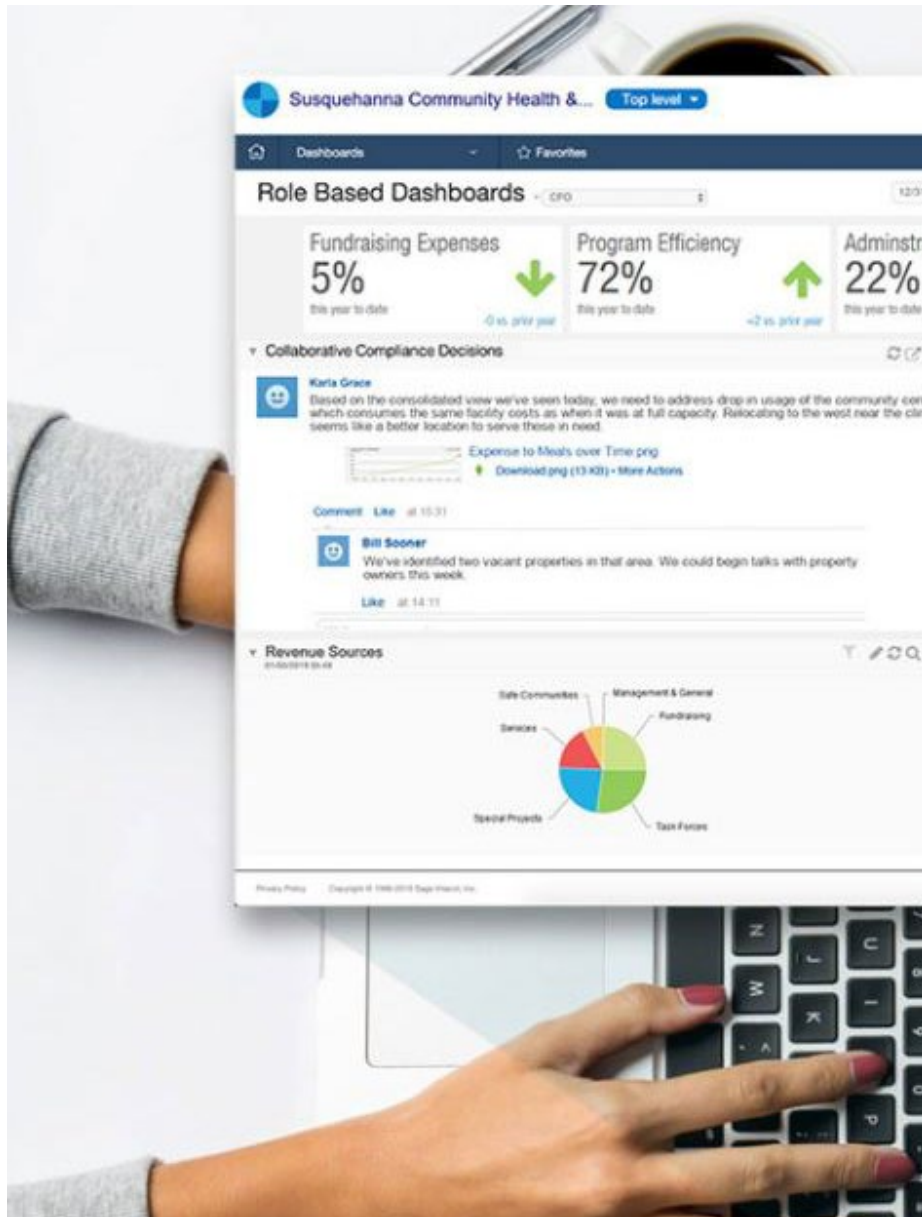
“Before, they [executives] had to wait until accounting closed the month and emailed them a report. Now they go online and see how they’re doing in their department or campus in real-time. Our executives now know where we stand financially. The new insights we have with Sage Intacct have been extremely valuable in supporting our growth and our mission.”

**SANDALS
CHURCH**

Amber Cheong
Director of Finance



[Read the full story](#)



Gain real-time operational and financial visibility

The days of flying blind with no real-time reporting and visibility are over.

Sage Intacct provides a rich, multi-dimensional, multi-ledger system that enables you to easily capture granular financial and operational data in exactly the same way that you manage your organization.

Gain real-time visibility into every aspect of your faith-based organization's finances; whether you're interested in which funds were used for each program, the performance of your organization by entity, campus or department, the expense tied to each volunteer or employee, or any other aspect unique to your organization.

Sage Intacct's role-based dashboards and rich reporting and analytics make it easy to keep a pulse on the financial health of your organization, as well as the health of individual programs, and to accurately budget for the months ahead. Sage Intacct automatically keeps your sub-ledgers and your general ledger synchronized in real-time, so you always have instant access to summaries and balances as well as transaction details.

Lutheran SeniorLife optimizes operations and improved operating revenue by 2%

“Sage Intacct’s visibility into our financial information has increased management’s focus on cost efficiency, driving a significant shift of at least 2% in operating revenue. Now managers can easily see their spending compared to prior years, planned budgets, and employee counts, so they’re motivated to optimize operations.”



Clyde Hardt
Controller



[Read the full story](#)



Master multi-entity, multi-location, and multi-currency management

Your congregation or faith ministry is complex, but your system doesn't have to be.

Whether you're a Catholic diocese that manages a chancery, parishes, schools, and cemeteries, a megachurch that manages a dozen campuses, or a global faith-based relief organization with subsidiaries and satellite offices in multiple countries, Sage Intacct automates multi-entity, multi-site, multi-currency, and multi-country operations.

Streamline inter-entity transactions, allocations, eliminations, and financial consolidation, reporting, and analysis with extensive built-in automation and one-click consolidations.

Take advantage of deep support for global organizations with automatic multi-currency transactions and reporting. Plus, you can store, manage, and report any data in multiple currencies.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland conquers complexity with intuitive, cloud-based financial system

“Initially, we didn’t think we would find a solution that could work for all our entities, because they’re each so different. But, when we found Sage Intacct, we knew the whole organization needed to make the switch. Sage Intacct has everything we were looking for – the ability to do real-time consolidations, robust reporting with drill-down capabilities, a much more flexible general ledger, strong internal controls with various levels of user access, and an intuitive interface for people of all technical abilities.”



Laurie Downey
Controller



[Read the full story](#)

Dashboards for key stakeholders

Sage Intacct dashboards provide executive leaders better visibility and data access to make informed strategic and programmatic decisions.

Dashboards provide real-time visibility into data—along with instant drill down. Sage Intacct's dashboards provide at-a-glance views of what matters most to faith ministry leaders. Financial leaders benefit from instant visibility into revenue, operational efficiency, and other key markers of financial stewardship. Program managers see metrics related to programs, locations, and budgets.



Faith Promise Church applauds Sage Intacct's easy reporting and dashboard capability

"We are thrilled with the ease of Sage Intacct's reporting. We can easily customize standard reports or create new reports and dashboards for our specific needs. I don't have a technology background, but I have been able to quickly build a report to tell me anything I need to know from the data in the system."



Aaron Goin
Chief Financial Officer



[Read the full story](#)



Infuse flexibility and automation

Your system should work the way you do, not the other way around.

Sage Intacct allows configurable design to bring flexibility and automation to your faith-based organization's operational workflow processes, and tracking and reporting toolsets, making compliance an 'of course' and freeing up time to focus on strategic financial management.

As your organization grows and changes, financial operations need to keep pace with transaction tracking procedures, internal controls, and reporting views that support the current and future organizational needs.

Designed to evolve with your organization, Sage Intacct's flexible and configurable architecture can be adapted to the tracking, electronic approvals, and workflow requirements for your operational structure and provide insights to best support your mission now and in the future.

Potential Church streamlines financial processes and gains extreme efficiency while accelerating rapid growth

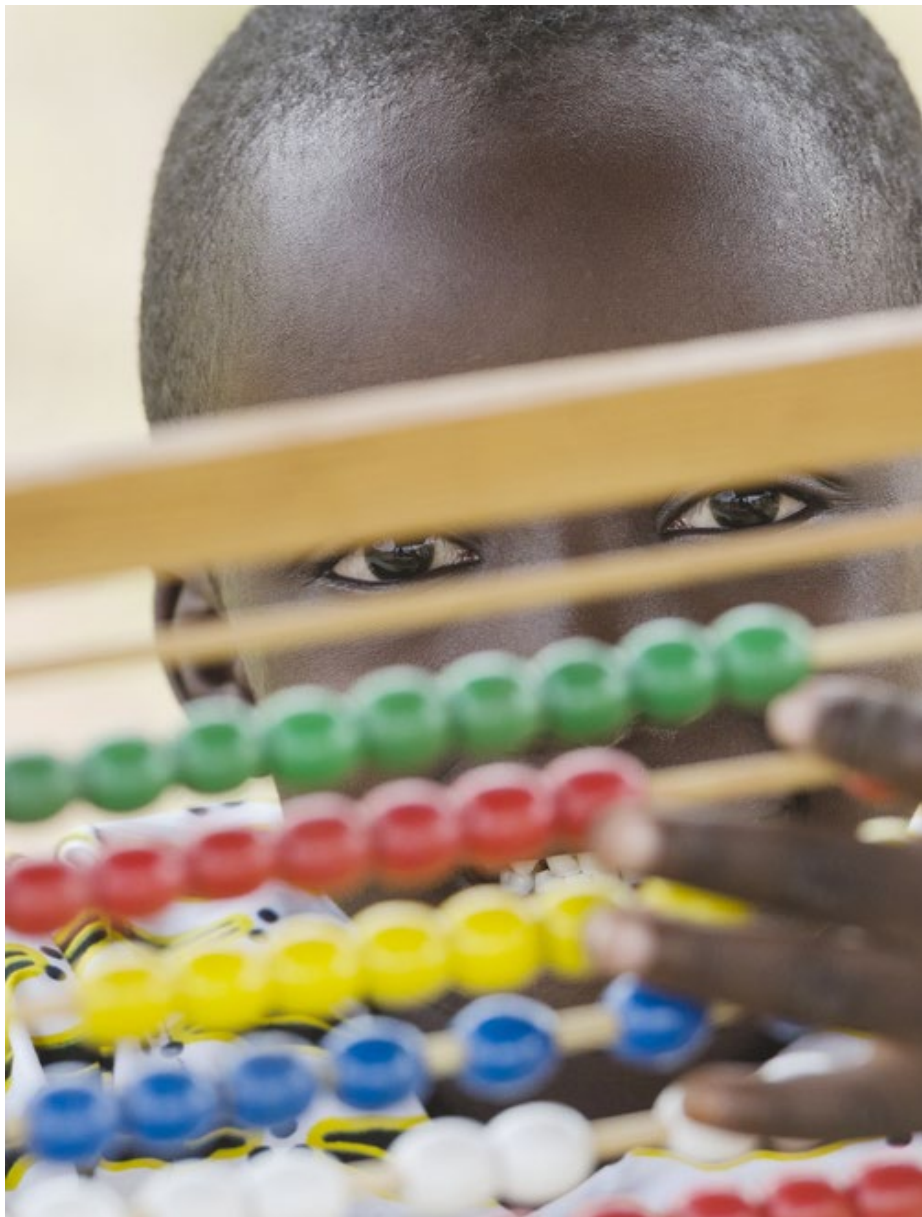
“Because of our streamlined processes, our existing finance staff is in a great position to support Potential Church even as we add another ten campuses. As a matter of fact, we were able to reduce our accounting staff by one and avoid another full-time hire, saving us approximately \$80,000 each year as a result of the extreme efficiencies we’ve gained with Sage Intacct.”

potential
CHURCH

Reggie Alexis
Controller



[Read the full story](#)



Simplify grant, fund, and donor accounting

Running reports tailored to each funder's requirements shouldn't be hard.

No two funding sources are alike, creating extraordinary complexity in congregation and faith ministry accounting. From revenue recognition to reporting, Sage Intacct makes it easy to measure the effectiveness of your organization's programs and demonstrate your financial responsibility to your congregation, donors, grantors, volunteers, and others.

Sage Intacct features robust fund, grant, and donor accounting, flexible budgeting and planning, real-time reporting, and role-based dashboards.

Engage both employees and volunteers in your financial processes with built-in expense management, time and billing, and purchasing applications—saving hundreds of hours of staff time every year. You'll also save hours every month and eliminate errors by getting rid of spreadsheets to calculate allocations.

St. PJ's Children's Home strengthens donor confidence with impactful statistical and financial metrics

"Sage Intacct helps us tell our story to long-term funders in a way that's meaningful and backed up with data, so they can understand why we're doing things differently and advocate for our new strategy externally. The solution's ability to quickly capture and share impactful statistical and financial metrics has been crucial to alleviating unease and maintaining continued support as we evolve the ways we're achieving our mission."



Curtis Ruder
Chief Financial Officer



[Read the full story](#)



Strengthen your organization with best-in-class solutions

Gain peace of mind with seamless third-party business application integrations.

At Sage Intacct, we pride ourselves on being the best cloud financial management solution on the market. That's all we do. And we believe you should have the freedom to choose the best solutions for all the other areas of your organization. That's why we partner with more than 200 software solution providers—enabling you to streamline processes by connecting Sage Intacct with membership management, payroll, budgeting and planning, expense management, and many more specialized applications.

Sage Intacct's open API and true cloud integration strategy allows for easy, intuitive imports or seamless integration via web services. This ensures that your finance team stays current with modern processing and reporting insights for your management team by harnessing technology to work smarter.

Grace Fellowship Church saves both time and money by integrating financial applications

“With Sage Intacct’s modern financial management solution, we’ve left the dark ages of software behind and have become a more productive organization. By improving our accounts payables process and combining best-in-class software from Sage Intacct, Bill.com, and Tallie, we are saving two weeks each month that we previously spent just entering invoices and expenses. This avoids around \$22,000 every year in additional staffing costs.”



Stacie Porter
Director of Finance



[Read the full story](#)

Strengthen stewardship and elevate your mission with Sage Intacct

“Do more with less” is the mantra of today.

Sage Intacct can help you accomplish your faith mission by providing you the visibility, flexibility, efficiency, automation, and integration you need to succeed.

Replacing and updating your old accounting solution with a modern, best-in-class cloud solution built for nonprofits and faith-based organizations can cost less than you think—while saving you time and resources.

We can help you prepare an ROI analysis for your key stakeholders and discover how you can lead your organization to better stewardship and greater impact. Our mission is to help you succeed with your mission.



Educational resources to help you make the right decision



Sage Intacct for Faith-Based
Ministries Overview Video

[Watch now](#)



Seacoast Church
Customer Story Video

[Watch now](#)



Browse All Congregation and
Faith Ministries Resources

[Browse now](#)



Sage Intacct

Sage Intacct is the AICPA's preferred provider of cloud financial applications

Specializing in helping nonprofits and faith-based organizations of all types, Sage Intacct's modern solution and open APIs streamlines grant, fund, project, and donor accounting—while delivering real-time visibility into the metrics that matter. At Sage Intacct, we help nonprofits strengthen stewardship, build influence, grow funding, and achieve mission success.

For more information, visit: [Sage Intacct for Faith-Based Ministries](#)



- ¹ [2012 Global Cloud Computing Survey Results](#), TechSoup Global
- ² [2020 Nonprofit Technology Trends Research Report](#), Sage Intacct
- ³ [G2 Grid Report for Nonprofit Accounting](#) | Spring 2020