

CHURCH BROADCAST SCHOOL

A Communication Ministry of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church

EPISODE THREE: Quality Online Audio

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord."

2 Kings 20:16 ESV

KEY IDEAS

- To hear the good news, you need first to be able to HEAR the good news.
- Most people, when they experience bad online audio during worship, don't come back, so you need to have clear audio available all the time.
- Unfortunately, most of our sanctuaries weren't designed and built for online worship.
- To get started, you don't need anything fancy.
- You can connect external microphones to any cell phone. Get a simple, inexpensive, lavalier microphone to plug into your camera or phone.
 - [Rode SmartLav+ Lavalier Microphone for iPhone and Smartphones](#)
- You may need a dongle or converter to connect the microphone for iPhones. When you purchase a converter, make sure you can plug in both the microphone AND a power source.
 - [3-Way iPhone Adapter](#)
- You should also purchase a 25-foot or longer extension cable for the mic.
 - [Movo PM10EC6 20-foot \(6m\) TRRS Female 3.5mm to TRRS Male 3.5mm Microphone Extension Cable for Smartphones](#)
- Plug the mic into your phone and place it closest to your sound source, a person, or even easier, near the speakers in the sanctuary.
- The closer you are to the source of the sound, the better the quality.
- In most sanctuaries, the audio begins at the altar with microphones at the lectern and pulpit and sometimes for musical instruments.
- Unless they're wireless mics, most of your microphone cables run back to a tap box located up front on the altar.
- These wires run either through floors, walls, and sometimes ceilings back to an audio mixer.
- An audio mixer looks complicated, but if you look closely, each mic input, like the pulpit, pastor, or piano, has a row assigned to it.
- All these rows are then mixed down on most boards to the righthand side, where you find the master rows. The sound levels get mixed together and go back out to the speakers.
- In most older churches, the mixer delivers the signal in an analog form. But when you're streaming online, you need a digital signal.
- Many churches first need to convert their analog audio signals to digital ones.

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- That's easy to do with a simple converter, but if you have a newer audio board, don't worry about this step; almost all of them are already digital, and no converter is needed.
 - [Focusrite Scarlet Series](#)
- Most audio boards built after 2000 are digital. Google what kind of audio board you own to learn if it's an analog or a digital soundboard.
- Look for the main outs on your audio board. These are typically found on the top right of the board or sometimes on the back. Use these XLR outputs to get your audio from a soundboard.
- If you have an analog audio board it needs to run into a device that can convert the signal into digital form so you can patch it into your streaming computer.
- If you have a digital board, you can go directly from the board into your computer.
- If you decide to use sound from your mixing board, remember that the sound in the sanctuary and the sound online must be mixed independently. What sounds good in the sanctuary may not sound good online. Experiment to find the right balance for both.
- Do not practice or experiment on your church's online channel. Set up a private channel with limited viewers to experiment on.

OTHER RESOURCES

[Types of Audio Cables](#)

[United Methodist Communications Training](#)