

Center for Clergy Excellence

The Challenge

The mission statement of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church states, in part, that the Florida Conference is to be a vital part of God's transformation of the world by calling, transforming and supporting clergy leaders for the church. The Center for Clergy Excellence was created in response to this mission.

Keeping track of the paperwork that helped support the clergy, however, was a mission that David Dodge, executive director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, needed some help with.

"Originally, I had 14 four-drawer filing cabinets full of personnel files in my office, and the count was continuing to grow," Dodge said. "It was clear that we were running out of space."

That's when Dodge began to explore document imaging systems.

At first, the center tried a document management system with a dedicated on-site server.

"That system worked fine until the software was sold to another company that promptly dropped support for the program," Dodge said. "That led us to search for another software system that would have better support. The second system we installed had issues with security and effective backups. So once again, we started looking for an imaging system to meet our needs."

The Solution

Dodge heard about eBridge from one of the center's current clients. After a few phone calls and online demo, Dodge had made his decision.

"eBridge was affordable and scalable, but more importantly with their system, we weren't going to lose any of documents we had already digitized," he said.

Center for Clergy Excellence

Background: Headquartered in Lakeland, FL
Part of the United Methodist Church
Staff of five

Challenges: Amount of files and file cabinets

Result: Elimination of on-site storage
Increased security for HR files
Implemented disaster-recovery plan



When the center started with the first imaging system, the staff scanned in much of the paperwork from the 14 file cabinets in Dodge's office.

"That included removing staples and paper clips and removing pages that didn't need to be retained," he said.

eBridge's implementation team was able to upload those scanned files into their web-based system.

"We were able to move Center for Clergy Excellence's scanned files into eBridge right away," said eBridge CEO Leslie Haywood. "So when their staff logged in for the first time, they could see five years worth of information online."

The Result

The third document imaging system seems to be the charm. The Center for Clergy Excellence has been using eBridge since 2007, and doesn't have any complaints.

"We've found the support at eBridge to be excellent," Dodge said. "Very few problems have occurred, and any that did were resolved quickly and professionally."

Because document imaging is eBridge's core business, the security system in place is first-class. All documents saved on eBridge servers are stored using AES-256 encryption. This guarantees that every image will remain safe and unaltered, and available 24 hours a day to employees with designated access.

That level of security combined with the fact that all of the

center's documents are scanned and stored online with eBridge also creates a powerful backup or disaster recovery tool. Lakeland is right in the middle of Florida, and is always a target during hurricane season. Since the center's documents are stored in the cloud now, however, there is no chance of data loss.

"Being in Florida, there is always the threat of hurricane damage," Dodge said. "eBridge provides us with the security of knowing our files are always safe."

The fact that eBridge is accessible from any computer with Internet access is also important to Dodge and his staff.

It would be hard to say, however, whether the increased security, backup plan or access is as important to Dodge as the space that eBridge's solution has freed up.

"I no longer have 14 file cabinets in my office," Dodge laughed.

The system has been rolled out to other departments within the Florida Conference, including the Bishop's Office, Financial Services, New Church Development and Ministry Protection. Currently, the Gulf Central, South Central and Southeast districts of Florida are also using eBridge in their offices.

About eBridge

Since 2001, eBridge has helped businesses eliminate the waste, risk and inefficiencies of paper-based records and processes by digitizing and storing documents in a central online repository. Web-based file cabinets allow users to securely access documents from any computer with an Internet connection. To explore what eBridge can do for your business, visit us online at www.eBridge.com to read more case studies, or contact one of our industry experts at info@eBridge.com or (877) 676-6067.