



Success Story

Hillside Christian Church

Manages Multiple Locations with APS OnLine



Company Profile

Hillside Christian Church is a non-denominational church communicating God's Word in a creative and compelling way throughout the Texas Panhandle. At Hillside, a community of people from many different backgrounds seeks to love God and to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

With five Texas campuses including Dalhart, Lubbock, Amarillo West, Amarillo South and Canyon, this ever-growing church's attendance already exceeds 8,000 weekly. Two additional campuses are currently being planned as this successful church continues to expand its reach.

Bob Schroeder | West Campus Pastor & Executive Pastor Central Service

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Challenges

Hillside Christian Church is one church in multiple locations. To manage multiple campuses, a specialized Central Services staff was developed to serve the administrative needs of every campus from a central location.

As the church grew to just under 100 employees in addition to numerous volunteers, administrative demands relating to flexibility and efficiency in systems operation, capacity to assimilate new campuses, and careful management of sensitive employee information heightened, particularly in the area of payroll. Bob Schroeder, Executive Pastor of Central Services and West Campus Pastor, said it was apparent in 2008 that it was time to explore moving to a cloud based payroll system.

“Learning to manage employees that we are not in front of daily can be challenging,” said Schroeder. “Having advanced systems in place like the APS Payroll Solution to facilitate multiple location administration is critical to successfully managing continued church growth. It's also a factor in attracting talented leaders because they often look for a church with management and technology tools in place which demonstrate a commitment to team excellence.”

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Requirements

- **Payroll system provider with previous church experience.**
- **Cloud-based payroll system with online access.**
- **Opportunity to move to a paperless payroll system.**
- **Intuitive reporting.**
- **Capacity to grow with the church.**

Results

Hillside Christian Church implemented the APS Online Payroll Solution in October of 2008. "Another church which has been highly pleased with their experience referred us to APS," said Schroeder. "That was important to us because working with a church is totally different than working with a for-profit organization. APS is aware of the tax law differences and does an excellent job with tax compliance from start to finish."

Finance Director Diane Denham said the benefits the church gained from moving to an online system were immediate. "The biggest advantage of a cloud based system is that you can run payroll online without having to be physically at your office desk," said Diane. "With all of us wearing many hats in Central Services and needing to be at various campuses at times, this has been a huge benefit for us. The eSelfserve feature gives this same level of online accessibility to all of our employees."

The church's payroll system is also paperless. "It so simple and secure," said Denham. "Our employees receive an email instead of a pay stub that lets them know they have a new pay item in their bank account."

Denham described the APS reporting feature as one that is intuitive and flexible. "When it comes time to pull information for audits, it is so easy to do," said Denham. "We can pull deductions, compensation, housing or whatever we need."

Schroeder agreed. "I particularly like the change report APS offers because I can look back and see what changes I made which also helps when establishing an audit trail," said Schroeder. "And if we need to change the way we are approaching a report, it is not a problem. We are getting ready to structure retirement holdings a little differently. I can just make a phone call to APS, and they will tailor the report to our needs. It has been our experience that they will do everything possible to accommodate clients."

As the church continues to grow, Schroeder is also confident that the APS system will grow with it. "We don't have to start at ground zero each time we add a campus. We create a new set of classifications, and we are good to go," said Schroeder.

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