

Designer Hiring Checklist + Questions

A free checklist from ChurchCreation.com (typical 2026 ranges)

Who you can hire

OPTION	TYPICAL COST	BEST FOR
Freelancer	\$1,500–\$8,000 build + ~\$10–\$120/mo	Affordable, personal, usually an open platform you keep
Agency	\$8,000–\$40,000+ + retainer	Strategy, branding, accountability — bigger churches
Church design company	~\$1k–\$10k + monthly	Built-in church features — but highest lock-in risk
Done-for-you service	\$0–\$200+/mo, ongoing	Cheapest/fastest; you rent, not own

11 QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ☐ Can I see live, current church sites you've built?
- ☐ Who owns the domain, code, files & content when paid?
- ☐ What platform — can we edit/move it later?
- ☐ Can our team update it ourselves after launch?
- ☐ Are SEO, mobile & accessibility included?
- ☐ Where is it hosted — do we hold the logins?
- ☐ Timeline, and what do you need from us?
- ☐ How many revision rounds are included?
- ☐ Is maintenance required, and the monthly cost?
- ☐ What happens if we part ways?
- ☐ Two church references we can contact?

RED FLAGS

- ☐ No church portfolio / dated sites
- ☐ Proprietary platform, no export
- ☐ They register your domain
- ☐ Vague pricing
- ☐ No post-launch plan
- ☐ Stop paying = lose your site
- ☐ Ownership not in the contract

WHAT TO HAND THEM (THE BRIEF)

- ☐ Goals (plan-a-visit, giving, sermons)
- ☐ A rough sitemap
- ☐ Your content + brand assets
- ☐ 2–3 example sites you like
- ☐ Budget range + a hard deadline