

# DIY vs Hire — Decision Worksheet

A free worksheet from ChurchCreation.com (ranges are typical 2026 figures)

## The three paths, side by side

|                   | DIY BUILDER            | FREELANCE DESIGNER                        | DONE-FOR-YOU         |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Upfront cost      | \$0–\$200              | \$1,500–\$8,000+                          | \$0 / low            |
| Monthly / ongoing | \$16–\$119/mo          | Hosting \$10–\$30/mo + care \$50–\$200/mo | \$97–\$247/mo        |
| Your time         | High (you build it)    | Low (you supply content)                  | Very low             |
| Skill needed      | Moderate               | Low (briefing only)                       | None                 |
| Time to launch    | Hours–weekends         | 2–8 weeks                                 | Days–weeks           |
| Who owns it       | You                    | You (confirm in contract)                 | Usually the provider |
| ~5-year total     | \$1,000–\$3,000 + time | \$2,500–\$8,000+                          | \$6,000+             |

The counterintuitive headline: the cheapest *monthly* option (done-for-you) is often the most expensive over five years, and the "free" option (DIY) isn't free once your time is priced in.

## Score these four questions

1. Do you have a reliable, tech-comfortable person with real time?    Yes → Q2 · No → Q3
2. Is "clean & functional" enough (vs custom brand)?    Yes → DIY builder · No → Freelancer
3. Do you have cash up front (~\$1,500+)?    Yes → Q4 · No → Done-for-you
4. Do you want to own & edit it yourself afterward?    Yes → Freelancer · No → Done-for-you

## Three church scenarios

| CHURCH                                                | BEST PATH                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Tiny plant (40, ~\$0–50/mo, one tech-savvy volunteer) | DIY builder (Tithe.ly \$19 / Squarespace) |
| Mid-size (250, modest budget, busy non-techy admin)   | Freelancer (preferred) or done-for-you    |
| Large/multi-ministry (1,000+, budget, multisite)      | Freelancer/agency custom + care retainer  |