



CASE STUDY

Streamlined Church Expenses

Company Name
First Baptist Church Umatilla (FBCU)

Company Type
Church

Headquarters
Umatilla, FL

Brief
Executive Pastor Mike Ellis needed to modernize and streamline the expense procedures for over 50 employees and volunteers.

The First Baptist Church Umatilla (FBCU) is an essential part of the Umatilla, FL area through its faith based programs, daycare center and spiritual guidance to the community. Pastor Mike Ellis has been with FBCU for over five years with three of those years as the Executive Pastor. Given that the role was previously held by one person for over 20 years, there were many processes that were outdated when Mike took the position.

CHALLENGES

With the church's recent consolidation of its key entities - the church itself, a daycare center and a thrift store - Mike had to manage over 50 employees and volunteers with only one credit card for their expenditures. Not only did each department need to request the physical card for purchases but with a credit line of only \$4,000, the financial team had to constantly oversee and manage paying off the card to ensure funds were available for their needs. After failed attempts to secure additional credit cards, Mike searched for alternative ways to organize expenses for his team.

THE SOLUTION

Mike's goal was two fold: make it easier for employees to access the funds within their budgets while also enabling the administrative side a more efficient process of managing the financial aspects of reconciliation and other needs. Mike tested PEX with an initial batch of cards and saw immediate benefits. "It was a whole lot cleaner and a lot easier. Just the efficiency with how we are doing the accounting side of things and how our employees are able to get the funds. It just made things so much simpler."

Mike's team also found efficiencies by using the PEX app for effortless fund requests and tagging spends to the correct programs. FBCU uses Aplos to manage their accounting and discovered a more simplified bookkeeping process with the Aplos/PEX integration. "The convenience for your employees, the convenience for your accounting department as well, especially if you are using Aplos [integrated] platform with PEX... it makes it so much more efficient."

CLOSING COMMENTS

PEX enabled Mike's team through a cleaner, easier and more efficient way to access funds. As Mike says, "Ease of use and efficiency has been the biggest [improvements] that we've seen on our side from where we were." With almost 20 cards in place, Mike is ecstatic with the results especially the customer service aspect, "We'd definitely recommend it first of all. It's been a very good experience for us. Customer service has been very, very good. If you're worried about how the service is going to be after the sale, it's going to be good."



It's been a great experience for us. We've used it quite extensively and we've expanded our use of it just because of how well it worked for us and our situation.

Mike Ellis, Executive Pastor

A FEW OF THE BENEFITS OF PEX



TRACKING AND INSIGHTS

Precisely track and control spending by employees and volunteers. Payments are more transparent and meaningful with the PEX solution.



STREAMLINE RECONCILIATION, REDUCE UNAUTHORIZED PURCHASES

PEX works with your General Ledger codes and integrates with most accounting software, allowing transactions to easily be allocated to different projects, events, travel, etc.



ENABLE FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS IN REAL-TIME

You have the option to either directly fund and defund cards or automate the process. Set up alerts to instantly know when a card is used or declined.