
Re: church website in Sacramento - rough ranges, split by line item

2 messages

Bright Presence Digital <scott@brightpresencedigital.com>
To: jdcarrero7@gmail.com

Tue, Aug 4, 2026 at 4:40 PM

Hi Juan,

Thanks for a genuinely well-scoped inquiry. Rough ranges below, split the way you asked, plus straight answers to your two main questions.

First, the honest framing. Some of what you listed is website work, which I do. Some of it is specialist software, which I do not build and would not sell you. I will tell you exactly which is which, recommend the pieces I would use, and wire them into the site so the whole thing feels like one experience to your congregation.

Your first question: can this be built on GoDaddy Website Builder?

No, and here is specifically what blocks it.

Proper bilingual is the first wall. GoDaddy has no real second-language layer, so Spanish ends up as a translate overlay and your forms, checkout, and confirmation emails stay English. You said Spanish is the default and properly translated, and that alone rules the platform out.

Second, a sermon archive that syncs itself from YouTube needs custom code talking to YouTube's API on a schedule. Website builders do not allow that.

Third, event registration with capacity limits, a waitlist, and in-person cash landing in the same roster is not something you assemble from builder blocks.

What I do instead: a custom site written from scratch, no WordPress, no page builder, no template, hosted on my own private server.

What I build, and what it costs

One number, one bill: **\$249.99 a month for the first 12 months**. That includes the build, the hosting, and unlimited changes. There is no upfront build fee. I spread the build across your first year on purpose, because asking a church for a few thousand dollars before anything exists is a bad way to start a relationship.

That covers all of it: 12 to 15 pages, fully bilingual with Spanish as the default and a proper language toggle, every page and form and confirmation email actually translated rather than

machine-overlaid, the sermon archive pulling automatically from your YouTube channel, the hero video, and all the wiring for giving and registration described below.

After month 12 you own the site outright. You can download it and host it anywhere. If you stay, the monthly drops to **\$199.99** (that is hosting, plus me being available to make changes and give you advice exactly like I am doing right now).

That availability is the piece people find unusual, so let me be specific. You email me "the service times changed" or "here are photos from camp" and I make the change, usually same day. There is no ticket system, no support tier, no queue. You are emailing the person who wrote the code. That is the whole reason I run this small.

What I do not build, and what I would use instead

You are going to get quotes from people who say they can build all of it, giving included. Honestly, I could write that code too. But building a church's donation ledger and year-end tax statements from scratch is not the right thing to do to a client. Software like that needs a team maintaining it for years, not one person. Bright Presence Digital is built to be here a long time, which means doing things the right way even when the wrong way is the easier sale. That is why you are getting an honest split below instead of one big number.

Giving and event registration are compliance software, not website features. Year-end contribution statements have to be correct or your donors have a tax problem. You should contract these two directly so the church owns the account and the money moves straight to your bank.

Giving and tithing: Planning Center Giving. The platform is free to use and you pay only processing, roughly 2.15% plus 30 cents on cards and about 1% on ACH. It handles recurring gifts, designated funds, and automatic year-end contribution statements, which is the piece you specifically asked about. Tithe.ly is the solid alternative, closer to 2.9% plus 30 cents on cards.

Event registration: Planning Center Registrations. It does exactly what you described. Capacity limits, waitlists, per-family pricing for the camp and per-person for the conferences, and your staff can duplicate this year's event to build next year's without calling me. Cash and checks taken at a table get entered by hand and land in the same roster as online signups. It is a paid module, roughly \$15 to \$50 a month depending on your database size.

Both live inside Planning Center's free Church Center app, which is why I lean this direction. One login for staff, one place for your people, and I embed and link it so visitors never feel the seam. Setting all of it up with you is included in what you are already paying me.

Treat those percentages and monthlies as close-but-verify. I will confirm current pricing in writing before you commit to anything.

Your second question: Stripe or Square?

Stripe, if those are the only two options. Square has no nonprofit rate, and as you clearly already know, year-end statements out of Square mean manual exports every January.

The more useful answer is that you probably should not wire either in directly. Planning Center runs on Stripe underneath, so you get Stripe's rails plus the giving and registration features on top, instead of raw payments and a January spreadsheet problem. Direct Stripe only makes sense if you want a fully custom checkout, and for a church I do not think that is worth the compliance work it hands you.

The hero video

I am in Pittsburgh, so I am not flying out, and honestly you should not pay anyone to film this. Have someone at the church shoot on an iPhone. Slow pans of the sanctuary, the entrance, people arriving, hands raised in worship, the parking lot on a Sunday morning. Send me everything, plus as many photos of the building and your people as you can gather.

Phones shoot better video now than real cameras did five years ago. I will color it, cut it, mute it, and loop it. It costs you nothing and it looks like your church instead of stock footage of somebody else's.

If you would rather hire a videographer in Sacramento, expect roughly \$400 to \$800 for a half day or \$800 to \$1,500 for a full day. I will do the edit and the integration either way.

The split you asked for

Paid to me, one bundled monthly:

- Base site, 12 to 15 pages: included
- Bilingual with real translation: included
- Sermon archive, auto-syncing from YouTube: included
- Hero video edit and integration: included
- Wiring and setting up giving and registration: included
- Hosting, SSL, backups, uptime: included, never a separate bill
- Unlimited changes on demand: included
- **\$249.99/month for 12 months, nothing upfront. Then \$199.99/month, and the site is yours.**

Paid by the church directly, so you own the accounts:

- Planning Center Registrations: about \$15 to \$50/month
- Planning Center Giving: free platform, processing fees only
- Payment processing: roughly 2.15% plus 30 cents on cards, about 1% ACH
- Domain name: about \$15 to \$20 a year, if you do not have one

- Optional local videographer: \$400 to \$1,500 one time, only if you skip the phone footage

Your last question: setting up each year's events is not billed per event. Once Planning Center is in place your staff duplicates last year's event themselves, and if you would rather hand it to me, that falls under the monthly.

One thing worth saying now so it is never a surprise: every site I build carries a small credit line in the footer, a gold diamond and "Site by Bright Presence Digital." It is quiet, and it stays.

A few questions back for you:

1. When are you looking to have the site built by? If any of the three annual events has a registration deadline, that is the date that actually matters and I would build backward from it.
2. Do you already have a domain name, or would you need one?
3. Do you have church email set up? If you are still on personal Gmail addresses, I can get you proper addresses on your own domain. You would pay Google directly for the licenses, around \$7 per person per month, and I manage the whole thing for a flat \$20 a month for the church. It is a cheap add-on and it makes a real difference in how the office looks to people.
4. Do you want a formal written proposal, or is this enough to take to whoever else needs to see it?

Send the detailed scope whenever you like, and please let me know if you ever want to move forward. Happy to dig in.

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