

The Cathedral of the Rockies Church Sings Praises with RBP and Sage MIP Fund Accounting

SUCCESS STORY

The Challenge

The Cathedral of the Rockies outgrew their existing accounting software and was unable to maintain accurate financial records for their many different accounts. This resulted in keeping data in multiple spreadsheets, which creating inaccuracy and frustration.

The Solution

RBP Methods implemented *Sage MIP Fund Accounting*, helping the Church identify the processes they could eliminate or combine, which in turn enabled them to scale their accounts down from 2,000 to 500!

The Result

The Cathedral of the Rockies is now able to make well-informed decisions because of the accuracy of their financial statements while upholding their ethical values and demonstrating fiscal responsibility.

"Sharing the Christian faith by caring for others and growing in Spirit" is the mission and foundation of The Cathedral of the Rockies Methodist Church. More than 2,400 people support activities within the church, attend Sunday worship services, and are involved in the many outreach programs organized by the church. The expansive youth ministry, day care, school, senior care and outreach, and other stewardship programs cater to many of the families and residents within the greater Boise, Idaho area. In 2001, The Cathedral of the Rockies broke ground on an \$8.9 million expansion project that would enable them to continue to grow their ministry and outreach programs. However, as they grew, so did their need for a comprehensive software solution to manage the financial components of their operations.

The Old System on Rocky Ground

Managing the business of the church is often a much more involved process than one would imagine. In the case of The Cathedral of the Rockies, it was necessary to maintain multiple accounts to satisfy the financial obligations of each of the different outreach programs. On one hand, they had a general operating budget for day-to-day expenses and administrative functions, as well as other accounts for expenses related to the childcare and school programs to handle payroll and other costs. On the other hand, they had special projects for which money was earmarked such as ministry outreach, church missions and stewardship programs that needed to be kept separately.

Early in their ministry, The Cathedral of the Rockies chose *Peachtree*, which, for a time, worked well to manage their accounting needs. However, with growing financial obligations as well as multiple accounts to manage, they had outgrown *Peachtree*'s capabilities. As a result, the church staff had to complete more and more of their accounting within Excel spreadsheets in



order to keep each allocated fund separated from the others. For some time, their CPA had been advising The Cathedral of the Rockies that they needed a more robust accounting system to track their funds. Reviews and audits had been increasingly cumbersome for both the CPA and the church, because records were kept in so many different places, figures didn't always reconcile. In addition to this, The Cathedral of the Rockies wanted a system in place that allowed them to uphold their ethical values and clearly demonstrate that all funds were accounted for and allocated appropriately. The church needed a software provider that could understand their goals for integrity, and comprehend the financial picture of the church at-large as well as assist them in maintaining the independence of each of their accounts. So it was an answer to prayer when they found RBP Methods!

RBP Brings Sure Footing

Upon assessing the needs of The Cathedral of the Rockies, RBP recommended *Sage MIP Fund Accounting*, a robust software solution that would effectively manage all of the financial accounts within the church's operating budget. Kent Arnold, CEO of RBP Methods states, "With *Sage MIP Fund Accounting*, all of the financial activity can be tracked separately and together. The Cathedral of the Rockies would be able to see the continuity through each fund as it relates to financials of the whole organization

RBP METHODS

“Through the process we did a lot of work, but we had a lot of fun as well,” Matt states. “We have not only gained a superior solution to our accounting problems, but we’ve gained a new family in RBP!”

- Matt Roos, Accountant, The Cathedral of the Rockies

The Cathedral of the
Rockies United Methodist
Church

www.cathedraloftherockies.org



Company Profile

Type of Business
Church

Headquarters
Boise, Idaho

Other Information
80 Employees

System Profile

Sage MIP Fund Accounting
General Ledger
Accounts Payable
Accounts Receivable
Bank Reconciliation
Forms Designer
Payroll
Direct Deposit
Import/Export

or view them within their different divisions.”

Matt Roos, Accountant for Cathedral of the Rockies comments, “RBP provided an educated 3rd party perspective as to what our long term needs would be and how we could utilize the software solution to prepare for an audit and maintain efficient internal controls over our accounts. Not only that, but Kent was a great fit for our church, as he was personable, professional and timely in his follow-up. He was willing to listen to our needs and learn exactly what it was that we wanted to get out of our new system. His thorough understanding of the software gave us peace of mind knowing that the finished product would be exactly what we had hoped for.”

In addition to his superior technical expertise, Kent provided unparalleled customer service in his diligence to ensure the efficiency and accuracy of the system. Matt explains, “The implementation took place during the winter months so we, in essence celebrated Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s with Kent and the team at RBP. We invited Kent to join us during several of the special events that we hold during the holiday season, and he would often take time out of his day to go to services or luncheons with our staff. As it happened, we were finally ready to start the transition to the new system on New Year’s, which coincidentally was also a payroll processing day! Kent made the necessary travel arrangements so that he could be on-site to ensure that the transition would go smoothly and any systematic kinks could be ironed out immediately.”

Running with Successful Results

Under the new solution, all of the accounting operations have been streamlined and the process of undergoing an audit review has been simplified. The old system required

redundant data entry in multiple systems.

Through the implementation process of Sage *MIP Fund Accounting*, the church was able to identify which processes could be eliminated, and which could be combined. As a result, The Cathedral of the Rockies went from having over 2,000 separate accounts to only 500 by organizing their system in a more efficient manner. Because each account has the ability to populate financial data independently as well as within the overarching church account, data is up to date and more accurate. “As we gain a level of comfort with the new system, we will be saving tremendous amounts of time because we no longer have to track all of the different funds in separate spreadsheets and we have eliminated the duplication of records and manual data entry.” Matt continues, “The new solution has led to better management of the church operations. By having accurate information at our fingertips, we now have the resources to make appropriate decisions and monitor our financial activities.”

“The best service that I provided the church was helping them think through every step of their process and every procedure that they complete,” remarks Kent. “The end result was a well-rounded solution that will save them tremendous amounts of time and aggravation when reconciling their accounts. The Cathedral of the Rockies can now effectively utilize their funds to serve their larger purpose in growing their church and expanding on their mission statement, which is ultimately the goal and foundation of their church.”

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RBP Methods is a consulting company helping non-profit and governmental agencies sort through complex technical decisions by providing quality services and products either directly or through our wide network of associated firms. We offer a variety of services for organizations facing technology changes.

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