



# New Covenant Church Reaching New Communities with PTZOptics Cameras

BY TIM ADAMS

**N**ew Covenant Church in Malone, New York started life in 1978 as The Lighthouse, a coffee ministry that quickly grew into a small church because of the needs in their community for a compassionate, love-filled and God-centered church family. The church has undergone many changes over the last 41 years and continues to look forward to more impact and influence in their community and beyond.

## PROBLEM

The church had an old system comprised of Firewire-connected cameras mounted on PTZ mounts with limited utility and image quality. System components had been troublesome for some time and in order to keep New Covenant Church both relevant and supportive of their community, a new system was desperately needed that provided not only an update to resolution, reliability, efficiency and ease of use, but also added live streaming capability.

## SOLUTION

New Covenant Church pastor Matt Molnar reached out to Jason Jenkins of DVESore to create a system that met current and future needs. Jenkins designed a system utilizing a PTZOptics camera system connected to a Blackmagic Design ATEM switcher, which is in turn controlled via the network by a Mac running mimoLive software, which provides a camera control layer where the camera presets are

stored. Should the church require manual control of the cameras, this is accomplished via aPTZOptics iOS app. The system was designed over a 3 month period that would incorporate some legacy equipment with the brand new video system components to ensure everything worked properly.

When asked why he specified PTZOptics components, Jenkins responds, “I enjoy working with the people at PTZOptics. You can have a great product, but if the company and the support is lousy, it’s not a great overall experience. PTZOptics products represent an excellent value, and the

people are great. They stand behind their products. I have worked closely with them and have had nothing but good experiences.”

Molnar adds, “The PTZOptics system is extremely easy to deploy and is very volunteer friendly, using standard Cat5e cabling for both power and control. Our cameras utilize SDI to send signal back to the switcher, which provides low latency and reliability which are of paramount importance to us. In addition, I appreciated that we didn’t have to add electrical outlets to power the cameras, which would have added potentially significant costs to the project.”

Jenkins specified the PTZOptics PT12X-SDI-GY-G2 camera models, which incorporate a 12x optical zoom, both HDMI and SDI output, PoE and 12v power options, silent operation and presets. With the mimoLive software, users now have the ability to program and utilize position presets, which greatly aids in consistent shots, efficiency in the production as a simple mouse click recalls a camera’s position, zoom and focus, which means switching can be faster and more efficient. Additionally, text overlays are now an option with the new system; this adds the ability for lower third graphics, scripture passages and much more which adds a significant amount of production value for New Covenant Church. Another step forward is IMAG capability, which is another reason Jenkins went with an SDI wired solution, “When you are doing IMAG, you want to minimize latency, and nothing beats SDI in that regard.”

Molnar says, “Our old system did not have any preset capabilities so to have this available to our volunteers has provided a much-needed level of consistency, reliability and efficiency to our production workflow that was just not possible prior to the upgrade.”

New Covenant Church has enjoyed their new PTZOptics camera system and the capabilities it provides. The ease of



use, support from PTZOptics, camera image quality, and reliability has greatly aided the team’s ability to focus on producing a quality video.

One area that Pastor Molnar is adamant is finding a professional to help design and implement your upgraded system. He states, “There is no way you can know all the options and what is right for your situation. Several new pieces of equipment came to market while our system was being designed and without a professional integrator being involved, we never would have known about it before making a purchase. Jason was able to give us a heads up and have the discussion about whether the newly released or announced equipment was right for our situation or not. Don’t go it alone; as a huge researcher myself, I can say you’re kidding yourself if you think you can do some research and know what you’re doing. And don’t think because you’re a small church that it’s out of your reach; it can be more affordable than you think and the value in using a professional more than pays for itself”

New Covenant Church continues to support their local community and are excited about the addition of live streaming to their video system to help spread their message of love-filled and God-centered living to a broader audience and to the world at large. **T**

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**Tim Adams** has spent over 20 years volunteering in church technical ministry and has a proven track record of helping small churches experience high-quality audio/visual that can transform their programs. He teaches technical excellence through education training, mindset and behavior change, sharing best practices and casting God-sized vision.