



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AI TRANSLATION IN YOUR CHURCH



Helping everyone feel at home, regardless of language

OneAccord – AI Translation for Churches

✉ hello@oneaccord.ai

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WELCOME AND THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS GUIDE, FROM OUR TEAM AT ONEACCORD.

We provide an AI translation platform designed by believers exclusively for helping churches translate their weekly services.

If you're reading this, you're most likely either a Pastor or church leader with a desire to serve those members who don't speak your native language. Or you are a member of a church, who has seen the language needs in your church and are looking for more information to present to your church leadership.

AI is fast becoming a staple of our day jobs and businesses, yet there isn't much helpful information about how to implement it in the church context for translation purposes. At OneAccord, we've supported churches around the world with providing AI translation through our platform. So, please allow us to set your church up to win with this guide, while giving you a glimpse into the service we provide.

EASE OF USE

Perhaps the first hurdle in using AI translation is the perception that it would be complicated for your congregation to set up or use. If a potential translation user has little to no knowledge of your native language, it may be difficult enough to communicate, without also having to describe a long log-in process to access the translation.

Therefore, OneAccord has a 4-step process, where your translation user simply has to:



Some of our subscribers also provide earphones / headphones for their church's translation users who may wish to use the spoken translation.

THE NEEDS OF YOUR CONGREGATION

Before you invest in AI translation, it's important to learn as much as you can about the needs of your potential translation users and imagine the church experience from their vantage point. Imagine you were on holiday in a different country and attended a church service in a different language. How would you understand or navigate the service as someone who doesn't speak the language fluently?

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

How much of the service would you be able to understand from context clues or signposting alone?

How much of the native language would you understand?

Little to none?

- You would likely need the whole service translated.

Moderate conversational knowledge?

- You'd likely struggle with Biblical or theological words and concepts, so while you may be comfortable with announcements and other sections using more standard language, you would likely need sermons and/or prayer sections translated.

Fluent

- You may not require translation yourself, so you'd feel right at home, but you may have family with you who don't share your fluency or church background, so you'd have to support them and help them understand.

**What our
customers say**



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We have tried OneAccord during two of our services, and we are very pleased and impressed. IT WAS A HIT!

WHAT KIND OF PLAN DO YOU NEED?

At OneAccord, our plans are based on the following three factors:

- Number of translation languages – Our standard plan includes 3 languages of your choice, which can be swapped out for other languages according to your church's needs.
- Number of translation hours needed each month – Our standard plan includes 5 hours a month. This is based on the amount of speaking time that requires translation in your services, so it should not include praise and worship time.
- Number of translation users per service – Our standard plan gives you up to 30 users per service and can be increased in blocks of 10.

Our subscription plans start from \$150 USD/month, which offers 5 hours of translation each month and up to 3 translation languages for up to 30 users per service. Contact us for a custom quote for your congregation.

Our plans can be edited at any time, which means that if you need more languages, hours or users, you can amend your subscription. With OneAccord, you can do this either temporarily – for example, for special outreach services, or visitors with languages you don't already offer – or permanently as your church grows with more people needing translation.

**What our
customers say**



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This platform has been a game changer for our community.

MULTI-SITE CHURCHES

OneAccord can be used for multi-site churches, whether your various campuses are running services at the same time or at different times.

If this applies to your church, please remember – your user count is calculated per service, not cumulatively. So, for example, if Campus A has 30 translation users and Campus B has 40, you can set your plan at 40 users – instead of 70 – because 40 is the most any individual campus is currently using per service.

However, as each campus will be drawing from the same bank of translation hours, you would need to multiply the number of hours by the number of campuses using the translation.

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HOW AI TRANSLATION WORKS

AI translation with OneAccord works in two stages – transcription and translation. Transcription is our AI taking the incoming speech audio from your service and transcribing it onscreen in the source language, before the second stage – translation – takes place, where our platform translates the audio into multiple languages as text and audio to stream to your congregation's translation users.

**What our
customers say**



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He had tears in his eyes, just from being able to understand the sermon for the first time!

SOURCE AUDIO QUALITY

At OneAccord, our formula is “Better audio = Better translation”, because the higher the quality of the incoming audio, the more likely the AI is to recognise and transcribe what is being said accurately, which in turn, will produce better translations.

What does this mean practically? If your speaking microphone is routed through a sound desk before going through your front of house speakers, then good news – you're already 90% ready to receive high-quality audio for your translation as this is the ideal set up.

In our experience, other methods such as using Bluetooth mics, onboard laptop or phone microphones either produce low-quality audio or capture ambient noise – where the distance between the person speaking and the mic allows the mic to pick up background chatter or sound reflections bouncing off the walls. All of these will affect the transcription and translation quality, and for that reason we recommend using your sound desk for the highest quality possible.

AUDIO CONNECTION

If your speaking mic is routed through the sound desk, then the next step is to feed the audio from your sound desk into your laptop / computer for OneAccord to transcribe. The set up for this varies depending on the kind of desk you have:

DIGITAL DESK

- Your desk has an in-built USB Audio Interface – this converts the audio signal from your sound desk into digital information to be sent to your computer via USB. You'll find this in the form of a port labelled 'USB Audio Interface' or 'USB 2.0'
- Using a printer USB cable (USB 2.0 to USB Type-B), you can connect this port on the sound desk directly to your laptop / computer's USB port.
- You should then see the name of your sound desk in OneAccord's microphone selection screen, for you to select as an input source.

Support

OneAccord provide in-house audio support for our subscribers and trialling churches, so you or your church's A/V team can always get in touch with us if you need advice or help with setting up your translation.

You can reach us at:

hello@oneaccord.ai

ANALOG DESK

- You'll need an external USB Audio Interface which typically looks like a small metal or plastic box with audio inputs on the front and a USB port at the back.
- Your sound desk should have either an AUX output or a TAPE output (depending on age or size). This is separate from the output going to your congregation via the Front-of-House speakers:
 - Aux output – Connect this to one of the inputs on the front of the USB interface via a TRS cable (also called a jack-to-jack cable).
 - Tape output – Connect this to the interface's input via an RCA-to-TRS cable (also called phono-to-jack cable). RCA/Phono connection is the two-pronged red and white connection, typically found in older stereos and turntables.
- You can then connect the interface to your computer via a printer cable (USB 2.0 to USB Type-B). You should then see the name of the interface in the OneAccord microphone selection screen, ready to be selected as the source of incoming audio.
- USB Audio Interfaces can be purchased from places like Guitar Center, Sweetwater, Amazon, Reverb, eBay and other similar physical or online stores. Reliable brands include Focusrite, M-Audio, SSL, Universal Audio, PreSonus and Audient, amongst others.

LAPTOP / COMPUTER

The next important step is to choose the laptop / computer that is running your translation session and transcribing the incoming audio.

Many churches likely already have a computer in place, with programs such as EasyWorship, ProPresenter, OBS Studio, etc, running elements of the service such as screen projection, video packages, livestreaming and more. However, such programs are often run simultaneously during a service and therefore can require a lot from your computer's processor. Running OneAccord on the same computer is inevitably going to add to the same processor demand.

The key is assessing whether your machine can run all necessary programs and OneAccord at the same time, without affecting your service by lagging, glitching, etc. Therefore, we highly recommend running a brief test of our platform alongside your other programs during soundcheck to confirm everything is working well together.

What our customers say



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I brought a Spanish friend to church who was blown away by One Accord and how well it all worked!

WI-FI CONNECTION

OneAccord will require stable Wi-Fi to communicate with our server for all elements of the service – transcription, translation and streaming to your translation users.

In order for this to work effectively, Wi-Fi should be stable without frequent dropouts. We recommend a minimum upload speed of 2Mbps for the laptop / computer streaming the audio to us.



ACCESSIBILITY

The next step is to think about how a potential translation user with limited knowledge of your native language would know there is translation available or how to access it. Also, depending on their confidence or language level, it may be difficult to know how to ask or who to speak to.

At OneAccord, we provide you with a bespoke QR code that takes your translation users to your branded OneAccord translation page. The QR code should ideally be displayed somewhere clear and visible in the sanctuary, so both regular and first-time translation users will be able to see and scan it. Here are some ideas taken from our subscribers on how/where to display the QR code along with instructions on how to access it:

- As a large image on the projection screen before the service
- In the weekly church bulletin or on welcome cards / brochures handed out by ushers or Welcome / Language team.
- Laminated and posted on the wall in the sanctuary or the lobby with icons of various national flags

**What our
customers say**



Thank you. You guys are a big part of the future of our Spanish-speaking ministry and we're looking forward to how God uses your product to further spread the Gospel!

COMMUNICATION

Just as with Accessibility, you will need a plan to remind your congregation on a regular basis that translation is available and easy to use.

Most of your regular translation users may not need the reminder, but you may have newcomers or visitors that may require translation.

Some of your native-speaking congregation also may need the reminder, as they may have a neighbour or co-worker in mind to invite to church that might benefit from translation.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How does AI translation compare to human translation?

A. Both human and AI translation have their benefits and drawbacks. For example, human interpretation can offer cultural awareness, deeper understanding, and emotional expression. However, AI translation provides a practical and scalable way to make services more accessible to multilingual congregations.

Q. Will this replace our team of interpreters?

A. At OneAccord, we believe AI should be used to support and not replace human interpreters, as humans have knowledge and nuance AI does not. Our service is aimed at churches that do not have human interpreters available for a specific language.

Q. What do you do with our data?

A. Your audio is stored on our servers for a short amount of time to help our Quality Assessment team review the translation, after which it is deleted.

Q. How well will it recognise what I'm saying?

A. We use AI models trained with a wide variety of speech and accents, as well as on Biblical and church-specific words, so it does a good job of understanding different accents. However, having high-quality audio coming from your microphone and sound desk will have a large impact on how well the AI will understand and translate your service.

Q. Does it get better over time?

A. Our team review our translation regularly for Quality Assessment and improve the quality of the translation over time.

Q. How much does OneAccord cost?

A. Our subscription plans start from \$150 USD/month, which offers 5 hours of translation each month and up to 3 translation languages for up to 30 users per service. Contact us for a custom quote for your congregation.

Q. Am I locked into a contract with OneAccord?

A. No! There are no contracts with OneAccord and all our monthly subscriptions can be cancelled at any time.

Q. Is there a trial period with OneAccord?

A. Yes! We can give you some free credits to try it out! Contact us at hello@oneaccord.ai to get started.

Q. Are there any setup fees?

A. No, there is no setup or onboarding fee!

Q. Can I add a language that isn't listed?

A. No problem, send us a message and let us know what you need!

Q. Can I use OneAccord to translate praise and worship lyrics?

A. We recommend that you click 'Pause Translation' during praise and worship, singing or moments of silence during your service. AI is not yet equipped to accurately transcribe singing and where it does carry this out, live translation of poetic lyrics is quite literal.

NEXT STEPS

If you are interested in finding out more about OneAccord or trialling the translation, please contact us via email at:



hello@oneaccord.ai

or via the Contact form on our website:



www.oneaccord.ai

We set up new church accounts with 1 hour of free trial credit, so you can test out the translation with your congregation before committing to a subscription.

Our team also provide support for setup and audio queries, so please feel free to contact us and we'll be happy to help.

