AI Policy for Teaching and Lesson Preparation

About this policy

The following is not a statement about technology but about discipleship, guiding leaders and teachers, and providing guardrails for our use of AI within the church's teaching ministry. AI is a tool, not a teacher; a servant, not a master.

Scope

This policy applies to all those who teach within the discipleship ministries of Richland Creek, including all paid staff; volunteer leaders, including Life Group leaders, Grow Group facilitators, counselors, and Bible study teachers; elders, pastors, and deacons; and any contractor or vendor doing work on the church's behalf.

Theological Convictions

Before addressing the guidelines, we should consider some convictions that guide our understanding and undergird our position on AI.

- The Sufficiency of Scripture: As our statement of faith says, "We accept the Holy Scriptures as fully sufficient, as well as the supreme and final authority, on all matters on which they speak." Any AI-generated content or suggestion must be evaluated according to this standard and not treated as a separate source of authority.
- The Essential Role of Human Shepherding and Human Community: God called his church to be a covenant community of love to represent his presence on earth (Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 2:19-22; John 13:35). God called men to lead and shepherd his people (Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4). No technological tool can replace the functions of one-another love, presence, care, teaching, or accountability within the body of Christ.
- The Value of Integrity and Authenticity: The church trusts that what is spoken from the pulpit, taught in a class or group, or shared in a counseling session comes from a real Spirit-indwelt person who has studied and wrestled with God's Word, and prayed about how to apply it to our shared lives and experiences. This trust must not be violated.
- Wisdom in the Proper Use of Technology. No technology is morally neutral, and the possible negative effects of any technology must be carefully evaluated in light of its potential to shape the minds and hearts of God's people. We are commanded to

"test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil." (1 Thess. 5:21-22).

Guidelines for Use of AI in Teaching and Preparation

What you can do…

- Use AI as a **research assistant** for background information, language study, historical context, or unfamiliar theological positions, similar to the way you would use a Bible commentary. **Be careful**. Unlike a Bible commentary, which generally has one author whose background you can know, the LLMs that power AI models use sources from a multitude of backgrounds and theological presuppositions, many of which do not share your view of Scripture or God. Verify independently.
- Use AI to **brainstorm** lesson structures, illustration ideas, learning activities, and the like, similar to the way you would treat a conversation with a colleague or guidance from a published curriculum. The same cautions apply as above.
- Use AI to **edit**, **proofread,** or **summarize** a manuscript or lesson you've already written for length, clarity, grammar and usage, and so forth. Double-check any edits made for theological accuracy.
- Use AI to transcribe a spoken draft into written form.

What you can't do…

- Use AI to generate, in whole or in part, the essential content of your message or lesson apart from significant personal study and spiritual preparation.
- Use AI to conceive of the main idea, or theological thrust, of your sermon or message, apart from your own serious exegetical and theological study.
- Use AI to determine the flow and shape of your lesson or sermon, including key points and development, apart from an informed understanding of the Scripture.
- Copy and paste AI-generated stories or illustrations and then present them as your own.

The Integrity Test

Before delivering a sermon or lesson where AI played a role in preparation, the teacher, preacher or counselor should be able to affirm the following:

- I have personally studied the text and can defend/support my interpretation and conclusions without the aid of AI.
- Any theological convictions expressed are mine and are not a product of AI.

- Every illustration or story I have presented as personal experience happened to me or someone I know and is attributed as such.
- I could have done this without AI – the tool made the process faster, but it didn't replace my work and study.

Review and Revision

Technology is always changing, and AI especially so. This policy will be reviewed and revised as necessary by the Adult Ministry Pastor, in consultation with other elders and teachers.

Approved by Elder Body on Wednesday, November 4, 2026