Step-by-Step Guide: Creating a Presentation Video in Canva

By Sandra Lee Schubert, St. John's-Boonton and Church of the Redeemer-Morristown

Define Your Video Purpose

- Identify the message you want to convey. Are you creating an announcement, a sermon highlight, an event invitation, or an educational piece?
- Consider your audience—parish members, online viewers, or a broader community—and tailor the content accordingly.
- Keep your message clear, concise, and visually engaging.

Gather Your Resources

- Collect equipment and materials necessary for your video. If recording a voice-over, ensure you have a microphone or a quiet space for clear audio.
- Gather photos and images, including those from your church community, past events, or relevant graphics. If using personal or community photos, ensure you have permission to use them.
- If including music, choose copyright-free tracks or church-approved hymns that align with your message, or utilizing Canva collections.
- Prepare any scripts or key points for your video narration or text overlays.

Create a Storyboard Outline

- Sketch out scenes to visualize your video's flow. This helps maintain a structured and engaging narrative.
- List each slide or section, noting what visuals, text, or animations will appear.
- Include transitions and timing considerations to ensure a smooth flow between slides.
- Determine where voice-overs or background music will enhance the presentation.

Establish a Production Schedule

- Plan timelines to ensure timely video completion. Consider breaking the process into stages:
- Preparation: Gathering resources, outlining the storyboard.
- Designing in Canva: Creating and customizing slides.
- **Recording Voice-overs & Adding Music:** Ensuring proper alignment with visuals.
- **Review & Adjustments:** Watching the preview and making final refinements.
- **Exporting & Sharing:** Downloading and distributing the final video.
- Set realistic deadlines for each step, allowing time for revisions.

Open Canva and Select a Presentation Template

- Go to Canva and log in or create an account.
- In the search bar, type "Presentation" and select a template that fits your needs.
- Click "Customize this template" to start editing.

Add Titles and Text

- Click on any text box to edit the text.
- To add new text, click "Text" in the left sidebar and choose a heading style.
- Adjust font, size, color, and alignment using the toolbar at the top.

Insert and Arrange Images or Graphics

- Click "Elements" in the left sidebar to find shapes, icons, and images.
- Use "Uploads" to add your own images, including church photos and graphics.
- Drag and resize elements as needed.

Time Each Slide for Video Playback

- Click on "Present and Record" at the top right.
- Select "Auto-play" and adjust the timing per slide (default is 5 seconds, but you can change it).
- Click "Apply to all pages" if you want the same timing throughout.

Add Voice-Over or Music

- Click "Uploads" > "Audio" to upload a voice-over.
- To record directly, click "Record Yourself" in the "Uploads" section.
- For background music, click "Elements" > "Audio" and select a track.
- Adjust volume and trim audio using the toolbar.

Preview and Adjust

- Click "Play" at the top to preview your presentation.
- Adjust any slide timing, text, or animations as needed.

Export as a Video

- Click "Share" > "Download."
- Select "MP4 Video" format.
- Click "Download" to save the video to your computer.

Share Your Video

- Upload it to YouTube, Facebook, or your website.
- Share via email or social media by providing the video link.

Additional Tips:

- Keep slides concise with minimal text for better engagement.
- Use high-quality images for a polished look.
- Ensure your audio is clear and volume levels are balanced.

Checklist for Creating a Presentation Video in Canva

Define Your Video Purpose

Identify the message you want to convey (announcement, sermon highlight, event invitation, educational piece).

- Consider your audience (parish members, online viewers, or a broader community).
- Ensure the message is clear, concise, and visually engaging.

Gather Your Resources

Collect equipment (microphone, quiet space for recording).

Gather photos and images, including those from your church community and past events (ensure you have permission).

- Choose copyright-free music or church-approved hymns.
- Prepare scripts or key points for narration or text overlays.

Create a Storyboard Outline

- Sketch out scenes to visualize the video's flow.
- List each slide/section and its visuals, text, or animations.
- Plan transitions and timing for smooth flow.
- Determine where to place voice-overs or background music.

Establish a Production Schedule

Set timelines for each stage:

- Preparation: Gather resources, outline storyboard.
- **Designing in Canva:** Create and customize slides.
- **Recording Voice-overs & Adding Music:** Align with visuals.
- Review & Adjustments: Preview and refine.
- **Exporting & Sharing:** Download and distribute.
- Allow time for revisions.

Open Canva and Select a Presentation Template

- Go to <u>Canva</u> and log in or create an account.
- Search for "Presentation" and select a template.
- Click "Customize this template" to start editing.

Add Titles and Text

- Click on any text box to edit.
- Add new text using "Text" in the left sidebar.
- Adjust font, size, color, and alignment.

Insert and Arrange Images or Graphics

- Click "Elements" to find shapes, icons, and images.
- Upload church photos and graphics using "Uploads."
- Drag and resize elements as needed.

Time Each Slide for Video Playback

- Click "Present and Record" at the top right.
- 🗹 Select "Auto-play" and adjust slide timing.
- Click "Apply to all pages" if needed.

Add Voice-Over or Music

- Click "Uploads" > "Audio" to upload a voice-over.
- Click "Record Yourself" to record directly in Canva.
- Choose background music from "Elements" > "Audio."
- Adjust volume and trim audio as needed.

Preview and Adjust

- Click "Play" to preview the presentation.
- Adjust slide timing, text, or animations if necessary.

Export as a Video

- Click "Share" > "Download."
- 🗹 Select "MP4 Video" format.
- Click "Download" to save the video.

Share Your Video

- Vpload to YouTube, Facebook, or your website.
- 🗹 Share via email or so