

Basic Suggestions for Video Equipment

Emily Pilat Director of Communications of the Virginia Synod and **Pastor Tim Crummitt of St. Paul's, Hampton**, have worked together to curate a list of equipment suggestions for those who are looking at leading worship digitally. This below list of suggestions focuses in on a few main areas that congregations may want to consider improving their digital worship, such as improving sound, or sharing tripods that are fitted for phones. This list is by no means an end all be all, but rather a way to make improvements to your digital worship without feeling overwhelmed.

Camera Suggestions

Your smartphone is perfectly adequate for video. You don't need to run out and blow a bunch of money on a video camera. If you already have a camera you are comfortable using, continue to do so!

Audio Suggestions

A worthwhile upgrade for a lot of congregations is looking to improve your audio quality. People can often tolerate a poorer video quality when they can hear the worship occurring.

[Rode VideoMic Me Directional Mic for Smartphones](#) (3.5mm Headphone Jack on Rear)

[Rode VideoMic Me-L Directional Microphone for iOS Devices](#) (Lightning Connect & 3.5mm Headphone Out)

[Rode smartLav+ Lavalier Condenser Microphone for Smartphones](#)

These three microphones above are good. Both of the *Rode VideoMic Me Directional Mics* will allow you to film and sit in any location- they vary based on the port you are plugging in as newer iPhones no longer support the standard headphone jack. The third option, the *Rode smartLav+* will probably sound a little clearer (be sure to avoid covering up the mic with your shirt). However, this mic will limit how far away you can get from the camera so keep that in mind when considering what your current set up is and if it needs to be modified.

Tripod and Support Suggestions

[JOBY GorillaPod 1K Flexible Mini-Tripod](#)

[AmazonBasics 60-Inch Lightweight Tripod with Bag](#)

The *JOBY GorillaPod* is a small tripod that can sit on a table, but that also has the ability to wrap around and clip on almost anything making it really adaptable for filming. The *AmazonBasics* tripod is larger and could be used in a worship space or anywhere where you might need a more traditional tripod.

Phone Attachment Suggestions

If you plan to use your phone for filming, you will need a way to attach it to these tripods.

[Manfrotto Universal Smartphone Clamp, Pro Version \(MCPIXI\)](#)

The *Manfrotto Smartphone Clamp* should fit almost every smartphone, but check the dimensions just to be sure. Pastor Tim took the time and tested it on his old iPhone 3, iPhone 4, iPhone 5, iPhone 6s, and my current iPhone 11 Pro Max and this phone clamp was able to hold them all without an issue.

We hope that this information is helpful and provides a less overwhelming feeling when you're looking to make small improvements to your digital worship offerings. Please feel free to reach out to either of us with questions. You can reach Emily at pilat@vasynod.org and Pastor Tim at pastor@stpaulshampton.net