

Lifeway to close worship website, move resources

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) – The July 18 announcement that Lifeway Christian Resources will shutter its worship tools website has brought a flurry of responses, with the comments touching on stewardship versus the end of a resource many churches consider a staple.

The final day for new purchases from lifewayworship.com is Aug. 31. Church music leaders will have until Sept. 30 to download all their content from the website.



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“Sometimes this means we have to pull back from areas of ministry where the majority of churches have chosen other providers and focus our energy and resources on areas where we are best equipped to have a kingdom impact,” he said.

Trends indicated that a majority of churches were going to similar platforms like PraiseCharts and SongSelect, Brown said. “We realized lifewayworship.com was not effectively meeting the needs of the majority of churches.”

Brown said Lifeway is working to make lifewayworship.com’s digital music files as well as other resources available at Lifeway.com in the future. “Making this content available on another platform will take some time, but we are working toward that solution,” he said.

Lifeway Worship will continue to provide worship supplies for churches, including communion supplies, hymnals, trade music, bulletins, and digital graphics.

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He said one of the biggest draws – if not the biggest – was the availability of musical arrangements that promote congregational singing in a key that is comfortable for all participants.

“The a la cart feature to just purchase the parts you need in different keys is perfect for any size worship ministry,” Uhrich said. “Other sites only give you all-or-nothing for getting orchestrations.”

The functionality of lifewayworship.com in providing exactly what churches on a tight budget need cannot be overstated, Uhrich said. “Praise Charts arranges things exactly to the recording, and that’s fine, but many churches can’t match that.

“They can’t sing in the same key as Chris Tomlin or Phil Wickham. [Lifewayworship.com] made those songs accessible to churches and worshippers by offering them in different keys. The average guy could sing it,” he said.

Lifewayworship.com’s closure will “leave a major void of where to purchase good charts for worship,” Uhrich said.



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Carter, whose 36 years in worship ministry include the last two with Georgia Baptists, offered five suggested for churches.

– **Explore other digital platforms.** Compare the range of

worship tracks, lead sheets, orchestrations, multimedia elements, prices, and licensing terms.

– **Leverage local talent and resources.** “Consider tapping into the talent and resources available within your church community,” he said, including collaboration with local musicians, songwriters, and worship leaders.

– **Foster creativity within your worship team.** Maximize existing resources, such as developing original music “which eliminates the need for purchasing expensive copyrighted material.”

– **Seek out free or low-cost resources.** Independent artists and worship leaders often provide chord charts and other resources for their music for free or minimal cost online.

– **Evaluate your music budget.** Such a step, obviously, becomes more crucial with the end of a resource like lifewayworship.com.

LifeWay Christian Resources is a ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention. Its mission, as expressed at lifeway.com, is “to honor God and serve churches by designing trustworthy experiences that fuel ministry.”

To read the lifewayworship.com closure announcement, click [here](#).