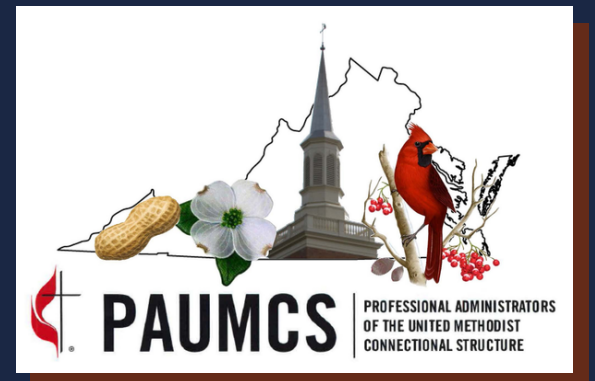


Life After Publisher

PAUMCS on the Road

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Publisher Is Retiring in **October** 2026

1

Microsoft is ending Publisher

It will be removed from
Microsoft 365
subscriptions after
October 2026.

2

.pub files will stop opening

Once Publisher is removed
from your Microsoft 365
apps, you will not be able
to open or edit existing
bulletin templates in it.

3

Something new is required

It is time to decide what
platform(s) will work best
for your church and your
workflow.

What to Look For in a Replacement

1 Cost

Free or already covered by your church's existing subscriptions

2 Ease of Use

Can volunteers and part-time staff pick it up quickly

3 Print Quality

Bleed, margins, and PDF export that a print shop or copier can use

4 Templates

Ready-made bulletin, newsletter, and program layouts

5 Collaboration

Can more than one person work on it, from more than one device

6 Longevity

Is the company actively investing in it, not phasing it out

Canva

A browser-based design platform with an enormous library of templates.



COST FOR CHURCHES:

Free tier is genuinely useful;
FREE Pro via Canva for
Nonprofits

BEST FOR

Churches that want
something quick and
accessible to multiple users.
Covers most weekly bulletin
needs.

WHAT TO KNOW

- 501(c)(3)s & Churches eligible for full Pro plan, including brand kits and background removal, at no cost.
- Huge template library, easiest learning curve of any option here.
- Works in a browser or app; multiple people can collaborate on the same design.
- Print-ready PDF export; less granular control than a dedicated desktop publisher for complex booklets.

Affinity

A **professional** desktop publishing app built for layouts, multi-page documents, and print-ready files.



COST FOR CHURCHES:

FREE via Canva for Nonprofits

BEST FOR

Churches producing multi-page bulletins, booklets, or programs that need real layout precision, on a fixed budget.

WHAT TO KNOW

- FREE for Canva Pro users!
- Master pages, bleed settings, pasteboard, styles, and PDF/X export for real print shops.
- More of a desktop-app learning curve than Canva
- A good fit for anyone who liked Publisher's layout controls.
- Also get a photo program and a design program.

Adobe InDesign

The industry standard for serious print and publication work.

COST FOR CHURCHES:

Subscription via Adobe Creative Cloud, ~\$23/mo

BEST FOR

Churches that regularly produce polished, multi-page materials: conference programs, annual reports, high-volume print runs.

WHAT TO KNOW

- The most powerful layout control of any tool on this list.
- More complex to learn than Canva or Affinity; built for designers, but can be learned.
- Nonprofit discounts are available through TechSoup, but it remains an ongoing subscription cost.
- Subscription levles can include many more programs.
- *Adobe also offers Express, a simpler free browser-based tool that functions more like Canva.*

Microsoft Designer

A newer AI-assisted design tool included with Microsoft 365, worth exploring for simpler projects.

COST FOR CHURCHES:

Included with Microsoft 365,
free tier available

BEST FOR

Social graphics, flyers,
single-page announcements.
Quick AI-generated layouts.

WHAT TO KNOW

- Built for social media and single-page graphics, not multi-page print documents.
- No true desktop publishing features: no master pages, no bleed settings, no CMYK export.
- More of a desktop-app learning curve than Canva
- Microsoft has said common Publisher tasks now live across Word, PowerPoint, and Designer, **not** in one app.
- *Worth knowing about, but not a full bulletin replacement on its own.*

Lucidpress / Marq

A browser-based option similar to Canva, with more focus on brand consistency and multi-page documents.

COST FOR CHURCHES:

Free tier available but 3 project limit; paid plans add team brand controls

BEST FOR

Church communicators who manage multiple templates and want everyone on staff working from the same locked-down brand kit.

WHAT TO KNOW

- Similar drag-and-drop feel to Canva, built around brand templates and multi-page documents.
- Locked template regions help keep bulletins on-brand even when several volunteers are editing.
- Nonprofit discounts are available through TechSoup, but it remains an ongoing subscription cost.
- Smaller stock and template library than Canva; some churches use both tools for different jobs.
- Worth a look if brand consistency across many documents is a bigger pain point than template variety.

Microsoft Word & PowerPoint

The tools most churches already have open everyday, with more design power than most people use.



COST FOR CHURCHES:

Already included in your
Microsoft 365 subscription

BEST FOR

Text-heavy bulletins in Word;
graphic- forward, single-
page layouts in PowerPoint.
No new software or training
needed.

WHAT TO KNOW

- Word handles simple, text-first bulletins well. PowerPoint's slide canvas works surprisingly well for single-page graphic layouts.
- Microsoft is actively building new layout and design features into both apps as Publisher winds down but no promises for when.
- Neither has true bleed or CMYK controls for professional print runs.
- **Just because you can, doesn't mean you should!**

Comparing Your Options



Program	Cost	Learning Curve	Print Precision	Best Fit
Canva	Free (nonprofit)	Low	Good	Simple Bulletins, Other Graphics
Affinity	Free (nonprofit)	Medium	Excellent	Multi-Page, print ready
Microsoft Designer	Free (M365)	Low	Basic	Single-page graphics
Adobe InDesign	~25+/month	High	Excellent	Professional print jobs
Lucidpress / Marq	Free tier, paid tiers	Low	Good	Brand consistency
Word & Power Point	Free (M365)	Low	Basic	Text or simple graphics

Secure NonProfit Access

canva.com/nonprofits

affinity.studio

1

Confirm your status

Have your church's 501(c)(3) or equivalent tax-exempt documentation ready.

2

Apply to Canva for Nonprofits

Unlocks Canva Pro for up to 50 users, and free access to Affinity.

3

Check Adobe or Marq if you need more

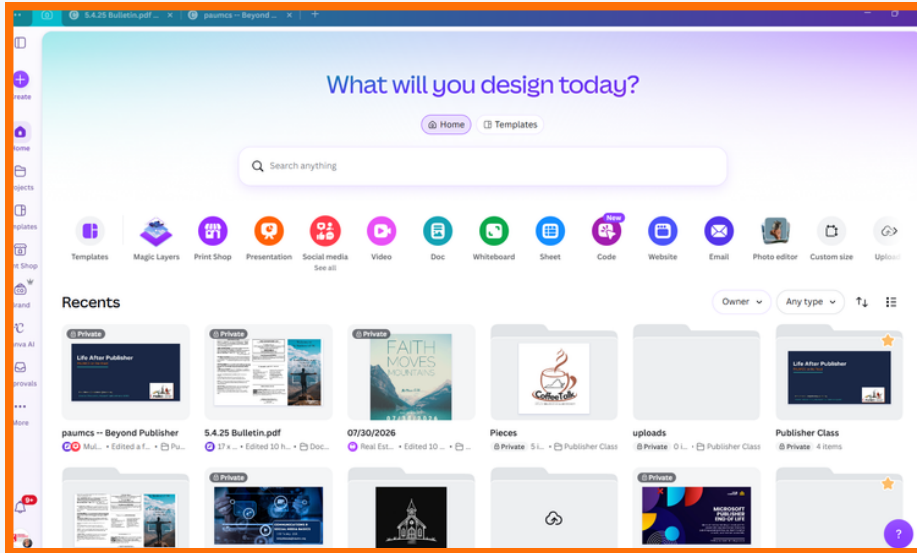
Adobe Creative Cloud has nonprofit discounts through TechSoup; Lucidpress/Marq offers its own free tier with no application needed.

4

Share logins with your team

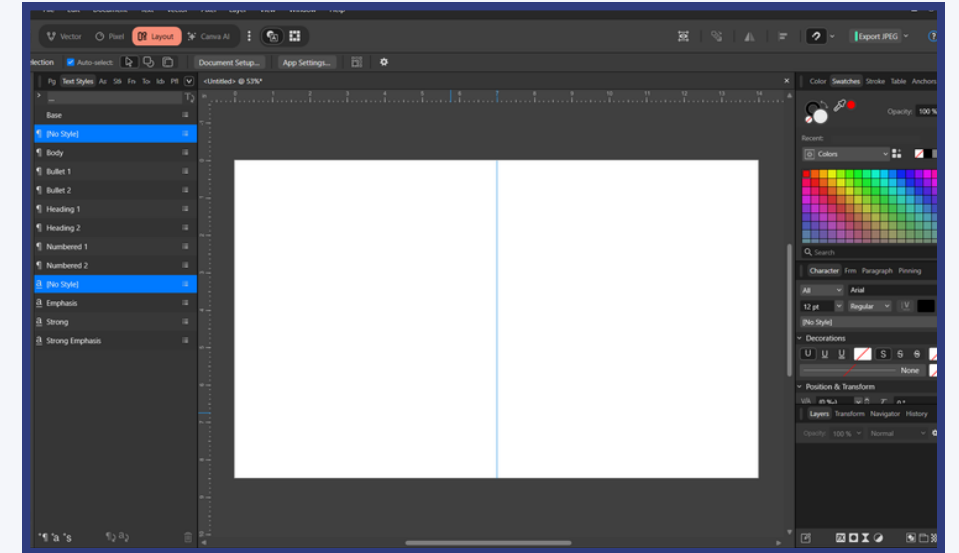
Ready-made bulletin, newsletter, and program layouts.

Show & Tell



CANVA

canva.com/nonprofits



AFFINITY

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