

DIY CHURCH WEBSITE

DIY Church Wireframe

Comprehensive Parent Theme User and Administrator Manual

Version 3.0.0

For WordPress 7.0 and PHP 7.4 or newer

Manual edition: July 2026



Responsive layouts, deep customization, block patterns, child-theme demo tools, accessibility, performance, WooCommerce, and bounded WordPress AI integration.

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Thank you for using free DIY Church Website resources and for serving the church community with clear, accessible, and well-maintained websites.

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How to use this manual

This guide follows the released interface and terminology. Work on a staging site, keep a current backup, and test changes at mobile, tablet, and desktop widths before changing a public church website.

Recommended workflow

Read the installation and first-use chapters before changing settings. Record the current versions of WordPress, PHP, the active parent and child themes, and related plugins before asking for support.

Manual conventions

- Menu paths use the form Appearance > Customize.
- Code and shortcodes appear in shaded boxes.
- Warning callouts identify steps that can affect URLs, content visibility, or stored data.
- Product interfaces can change in future releases; use the manual matching the installed version.

1. Overview and requirements

DIY Church Wireframe is the shared parent theme for the DIY Church Website child-theme collection.

What the parent controls

- Responsive header, content, sidebar, archive, single-post, page, search, and footer templates.
- Customizer settings for branding, typography, layout, navigation, hero areas, blog presentation, buttons, accessibility, performance, and WooCommerce.
- Block patterns, editor support, child-theme demo setup and rollback, SEO fallbacks, and a bounded AI configuration bridge.

Requirements

Component	Requirement
WordPress	7.0 or newer
PHP	7.4 or newer
Child theme	Optional; only one child theme can be active
Browser	Current desktop or mobile browser for administration

2. Installation and updates

Install the ZIP

1. Back up files and the database.
2. Open Appearance > Themes > Add New > Upload Theme.
3. Choose diy-church-wireframe-3.0.0.zip and select Install Now.
4. Install the desired child theme before activation.
5. Activate the child theme, not the parent, when using a child design.

Compatibility folder

The ZIP keeps the internal diy-church-wireframe folder so existing child themes and updates continue to work. The WordPress dashboard displays DIY Church Wireframe.

Update safely

1. Copy production to staging.
2. Review the changelog and minimum requirements.
3. Upload the replacement ZIP and approve replacement when WordPress prompts.
4. Clear page and object caches.
5. Test menus, homepage, forms, sermons, events, forums, and mobile layouts before production deployment.

Do not edit the parent files

Direct parent-theme file changes can be replaced during an update. Put presentation changes in a child theme and site-portable functionality in a plugin.

3. First-time site setup

Core WordPress settings

1. Set the site title, tagline, language, timezone, date format, and permalink structure.
2. Create administrator accounts for named individuals and remove unused accounts.
3. Set a static homepage and posts page under Settings > Reading when appropriate.
4. Confirm HTTPS and outgoing email.

Menus and widgets

- Assign Primary, Mobile, and Footer menus under Appearance > Menus.
- Keep navigation labels short and use a visible path for Plan Your Visit, Sermons, Events, Give, and Contact when relevant.
- Use registered sidebars only where the selected page layout includes them.

4. Branding, color, and typography

Site Identity

Upload a legible logo, set meaningful alternative text in the Media Library, and verify the logo remains readable on small screens and against the selected header background.

Color system

- Primary and secondary colors establish the brand.
- Accent color should be used sparingly for calls to action and status indicators.
- Body background, surface, border, text, heading, link, and hover colors must maintain readable contrast.

Typography

Choose body and heading fonts, base size, heading scale, weights, and line heights. Avoid very light weights and long all-capital headings. Confirm that browser zoom at 200 percent does not hide content.

5. Header, navigation, and mobile menu

Header layouts

- Choose the header style and container width.
- Configure sticky, transparent, border, spacing, and color behavior.
- Assign elements to desktop, tablet, and mobile header zones.
- Configure search, a call-to-action button, and the optional top bar.

Mobile checks

1. Test the configured breakpoint in portrait and landscape.
2. Open and close every submenu using keyboard and touch.
3. Confirm focus is visible and the menu does not cover required controls.
4. Verify the logo and call-to-action do not crowd the menu toggle.

6. Hero areas and page layouts

Hero settings

Configure the hero heading, supporting text, two optional buttons, background image, overlay, alignment, minimum height, and content width. Keep text factual and buttons action-oriented.

Page templates

Template	Best use
Default	Standard content with the globally selected sidebar behavior
Full width	Landing pages, media libraries, calendars, and wide block layouts
Landing	Focused campaign pages with simplified navigation
Sidebar left or right	Documentation or resource pages needing persistent secondary navigation

7. Post Archive and Portfolio Builders

Post Archive Builder

1. Open Appearance > Customize > DIY Church: Content > Post Archive Builder.
2. Choose List or a two-, three-, or four-column grid.
3. Set column gap, row gap, card content padding, and archive top and bottom margins.
4. Choose Above, Left, Right, or Hidden for featured-image placement.
5. Set side-image width and the 16:9, 4:3, square, or natural image ratio.
6. Choose excerpt length, read-more wording, metadata, and pagination.
7. Publish and verify a category page, date archive, search results, and the posts page on desktop and mobile.

Archive controls only

These settings change archive and category cards. They do not change the featured-image placement inside a single post.

Portfolio Builder

1. Open Portfolios > Add New and give the portfolio a clear name.
2. Choose an even grid, masonry, or single-column list, then select two, three, or four columns and a gap.
3. Select Add Portfolio Item for each image or video.
4. Use Choose Media for Media Library images and self-hosted videos, or paste a public YouTube or Vimeo URL.
5. Add purposeful image alternative text and an accessible title where useful.
6. Drag rows to reorder them and publish the portfolio.
7. Copy the generated shortcode into any page or post and preview it on desktop and mobile.

```
[diy_portfolio id="123"]
```

Portfolio safeguards

- Visible image captions are intentionally omitted.
- Use only media the church owns or is licensed to publish.
- Caption or transcribe video when practical.
- Do not upload confidential counseling, member, donor, or child information.
- Remote embeds depend on the third-party provider and its privacy terms.

Footer

Set widget columns, background, text and link colors, spacing, and copyright text. Include contact details, service times, privacy, accessibility, and support links as appropriate.

8. Block editor and patterns

Editing workflow

1. Use headings in logical order beginning with the page title.
2. Use core Columns and Group blocks for structure instead of pasted layout HTML.
3. Preview tablet and mobile views.
4. Check links, form labels, image alternative text, and button wording.
5. Save reusable layouts as synced patterns only when global changes are intended.

Patterns

Open the block inserter and browse Patterns for parent and child-theme starter sections. Patterns insert editable blocks; changing one inserted copy does not normally change other copies.

9. Child-theme demo setup and rollback

Two activation choices

Choice	Result
Import Demo Content	Creates marked starter pages, posts, menus, images, and supported plugin records, then applies the child design.
Activate Without Demo Content	Applies the child design while leaving existing content and site settings unchanged.

Safe import sequence

1. Back up the site.
2. Activate optional DIY Sermons and DIY Church Events first if their sample records are wanted.
3. Activate the child theme.
4. Choose Import Demo Content once.
5. Replace demonstration names, addresses, email, phone, dates, links, media, and ministry descriptions.
6. Review privacy, terms, giving, and form pages before publication.

Rollback scope DIY Theme > Child Theme Setup > Roll Back Demo Content moves importer-created records to Trash and restores recorded homepage, posts page, menu locations, identity, and theme settings. It does not remove content created later by an editor.

10. Accessibility and performance

Accessibility checklist

- Keyboard-test menus, dialogs, forms, galleries, media players, and interactive blocks.
- Maintain visible focus and sufficient color contrast.
- Use descriptive link text and one descriptive page title.
- Provide captions or transcripts for media when possible.
- Enable reduced motion support and avoid content that flashes.

Performance checklist

- Resize and compress images before upload.
- Use a page cache and test cache exclusions for logged-in, cart, and forum pages.
- Limit third-party scripts, font families, and tracking tags.
- Measure the public site after plugin or design changes.

11. WooCommerce and companion plugins

WooCommerce

DIY Church Wireframe declares WooCommerce gallery and layout support. Configure products per row, products per page, shop sidebar, quick view, sticky add-to-cart, and hover images only after WooCommerce is active.

First-party companions

Product	Role
DIY Sermons	Portable sermon, speaker, campus, Scripture, podcast, and media publishing
DIY Church Events	Events, recurring schedules, calendars, feeds, and campus or speaker relationships
DIY Church Site AI Assistant	Reviewable and reversible site plans through WordPress AI connectors
DIY Church Simple SEO	Site-portable advanced SEO controls when used

12. Site AI Assistant

How it works

1. Install WordPress 7.0 or newer and configure a compatible provider under Settings > Connectors.
2. Install DIY Church Site AI Assistant.
3. Open DIY AI Assist.
4. Enter the church name, choose Contemporary, Modern, Traditional, or Classic, and provide a detailed description.
5. Review the proposed settings, pages, warnings, homepage, and navigation.
6. Approve and apply immediately only after review.
7. Use the change history to roll back the recorded plan if needed.

**Bounded
automation**

The AI companion can use only allowlisted theme settings and structured core-block content. It cannot edit PHP, CSS, JavaScript, templates, passwords, or connector keys.

13. Troubleshooting and recovery

Common checks

Symptom	Check
Child theme says parent is missing	Install or update DIY Church Wireframe and keep its folder name diy-church-wireframe
Menu is missing	Assign the menu to Primary or Mobile location
Homepage looks like posts	Set a static homepage under Settings > Reading
Old colors remain	Clear page, object, browser, and CDN caches
404 after archive slug change	Visit Settings > Permalinks and save once
Customizer control has no effect	Check child-theme defaults and whether a cached stylesheet is being served

Recovery

1. Capture the exact error and URL.
2. Create a fresh backup or snapshot before further changes.
3. Disable only the suspected plugin on staging.
4. Switch to a default child configuration only if the issue can be reproduced safely.
5. Restore the last known good backup when data integrity is uncertain.

Quick Reference

Use this checklist when setting up a new site or preparing a support request.

Task or item	Where to find it
Theme Dashboard	DIY Theme > Theme Dashboard
Customizer	Appearance > Customize
Child demo setup	DIY Theme > Child Theme Setup
Homepage	Settings > Reading
Permalinks	Settings > Permalinks
Site AI Assistant	DIY AI Assist.
Maintenance	DIY Theme > DIY Maintenance Mode
Menus	Appearance > Menus

Support and responsible use

Search the matching manual and the support forum before starting a new topic. Include the product and version, WordPress and PHP versions, active theme, related plugins, exact steps, expected result, and actual result.

Never post secrets

Remove passwords, API keys, connector credentials, private member records, payment data, server credentials, and authentication cookies from screenshots, logs, forum topics, and support emails.

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