

# Experience



## PITMAN UNITED METHODIST: REINFORCING THE MESSAGE

On November 10, 1885 Pitman Grove Methodist Episcopal Church was organized, consisting of 43 members. In 2003, a fire destroyed the historic building in the center of Pitman New Jersey. During that time, the congregation had met in a school, a theater, and a converted hardware store. After years of planning and construction however, the new church is complete, featuring a 620 seat sanctuary. In planning for the new building, the leaders of Pitman church recognized that the needs of their growing congregation were rapidly changing, and that they needed to find new ways to highlight scripture, make announcements, and show videos. The church wanted to introduce extensive AV to the main sanctuary, without disturbing the church architecture or atmosphere. Since the congregation was increasing in size, the sanctuary needed to provide a way for all of its members to view messages from any seat.

To accomplish this, a front projection system was designed which provides a clear view from anywhere in the church. The integrity of the image is maintained by a high-quality digital projection system. Along with the impact of the visuals, a comparable audio system was imperative. The greatest challenge Vistacom faced was designing and integrating a speaker cluster that worked with the vaulted, custom wood beam ceiling, in a very compressed time-frame. "The challenge



was to come up with an esthetically pleasing loudspeaker installation within a decorative wood ceiling structure in a very short amount of time," stated Mike Parry, Engineer at Vistacom. "Basically we were looking at design to manufacturing to installation in 10 days. Polar Focus was the solution we went with and we couldn't be happier. They were a really professional organization to work with." The center cluster was flown from a sloped ridge glulam beam and the left/right speakers were flown from angled glulam beams. Polar Focus designed custom brackets which were to attach to each beam. Vistacom's installation team worked at 60 feet off the ground to execute the installation. The end result is a simple, yet elegant appearance with an effective sound coverage for the entire space. "The over-all effect has been really well received," stated Robert Brown, lead audio visual director for Pitman. "Our goal was to provide an environment where once you enter, you want to stay. I think we have that here."

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