

CHAPTER TWO:

LITERATURE REVIEW / REVIEW OF RELATED SYSTEMS

2.1 Review of System 1: Fellowship One Church Management System

2.1.1 Description of System

Overview:

FellowshipOne is a cloud-based church management system (ChMS) designed for medium to large congregations. It provides tools for membership tracking, donation management, event scheduling, and communication.

Models of the System:

- **Context Model:** The system interacts with administrators, church members, and external financial platforms.
- **Interaction Model (Sequence Diagram):** A member donates → system records → finance officer approves → report generated.
- **Structural Model:** Centralized database stores member profiles, contributions, and attendance.
- **Behavioral Model:** Automated notifications and workflows handle donations, reminders, and announcements.

Features:

- Member and volunteer management.
- Online giving and contribution tracking.
- Event registration and attendance monitoring.
- Reporting and analytics dashboards.

Development Tools & Environment:

Developed with **.NET Framework, Microsoft SQL Server**, and hosted on cloud infrastructure.

2.1.2 Review of the Good Features

- Scalable for large churches.
- Strong financial tracking and reporting.
- Cloud-based, hence accessible anywhere.

2.1.3 Review of the Bad Features

- High subscription costs.
- Complex interface requiring training.
- Limited offline access.

2.1.4 Summary of the System Review

FellowshipOne is powerful and suitable for large congregations, but its cost and complexity make it less favorable for smaller churches.

2.2 Review of System 2: Church Community Builder (CCB)

2.2.1 Description of System

Overview:

Church Community Builder (CCB) is a web-based ChMS focusing on member engagement, communication, and volunteer coordination.

Models of the System:

- **Context Model:** Connects pastors, members, and volunteers.
- **Interaction Model (Sequence Diagram):** Pastor Posts announcement → system sends emails/SMS → members respond or register for events.
- **Structural Model:** Web portal with role-based access (admins, leaders, members).
- **Behavioral Model:** Automated workflows for reminders, small group communications, and scheduling.

Features:

- Member engagement tracking.
- Volunteer and small group management.
- Integrated messaging (SMS/email).
- Attendance and giving reports.

Development Tools & Environment:

Developed using **PHP, MySQL, JavaScript**, and deployed in cloud environments.

2.2.2 Review of the Good Features

- Strong communication tools (email/SMS integration).
- Volunteer management and small group focus.

- Easy-to-use interface compared to FellowshipOne.

2.2.3 Review of the Bad Features

- Limited customization options.
- Requires stable internet.
- Reporting features less advanced than other systems.

2.2.4 Summary of the System Review

CCB excels at member engagement and group coordination but falls short on advanced analytics and flexibility.

2.3 Review of System 3: Breeze ChMS

2.3.1 Description of System

Overview:

Breeze is a simple, affordable, cloud-based church management system designed for small to medium-sized churches.

Models of the System:

- **Context Model:** Provides direct interaction between pastors, administrators, and members.
- **Interaction Model (Sequence Diagram):** Member registers online → admin approves → data stored → automatic confirmation email sent.
- **Structural Model:** Cloud-hosted database with simplified user roles.

- **Behavioral Model:** Automated workflows for donations, attendance, and communication.

Features:

- Simple member database.
- Giving and attendance tracking.
- Mass communication (emails, SMS).
- Event registration.

Development Tools & Environment:

Built using **Ruby on Rails**, **PostgreSQL**, and hosted on AWS.

2.3.2 Review of the Good Features

- Affordable pricing.
- User-friendly interface.
- Quick setup and deployment.

2.3.3 Review of the Bad Features

- Limited scalability for very large churches.
- Fewer advanced modules (finance, HR, etc.).
- No offline capability.

2.3.4 Summary of the System Review

Breeze is ideal for small and medium churches needing affordable, simple management but lacks enterprise-level scalability.

2.4 Review of System 4: Elvanto ChMS (by Tithe.ly)

2.4.1 Description of System

Overview:

Elvanto is a cloud-based, all-in-one ChMS that provides tools for membership, worship planning, communication, and reporting.

Models of the System:

- **Context Model:** Interfaces with pastors, finance teams, worship leaders, and members.
- **Interaction Model (Sequence Diagram):** Worship leader schedules service → volunteers notified → attendance recorded → reports generated.
- **Structural Model:** Modular system with roles (admin, worship leader, finance officer, member).
- **Behavioral Model:** Automated notifications, giving reminders, and event workflows.

Features:

- Worship and service planning.
- Online giving and contribution reports.
- Member management with customizable fields.
- Multi-campus support.

Development Tools & Environment:

Developed with **PHP, Laravel, MySQL**, and integrated with **Tithe.ly giving platform**.

2.4.2 Review of the Good Features

- Multi-campus and multi-role support.
- Integrated worship planning tools.
- Strong reporting and communication modules.

2.4.3 Review of the Bad Features

- Expensive subscription for small churches.
- Some features (like giving) require add-ons.
- Learning curve for new users.

2.4.4 Summary of the System Review

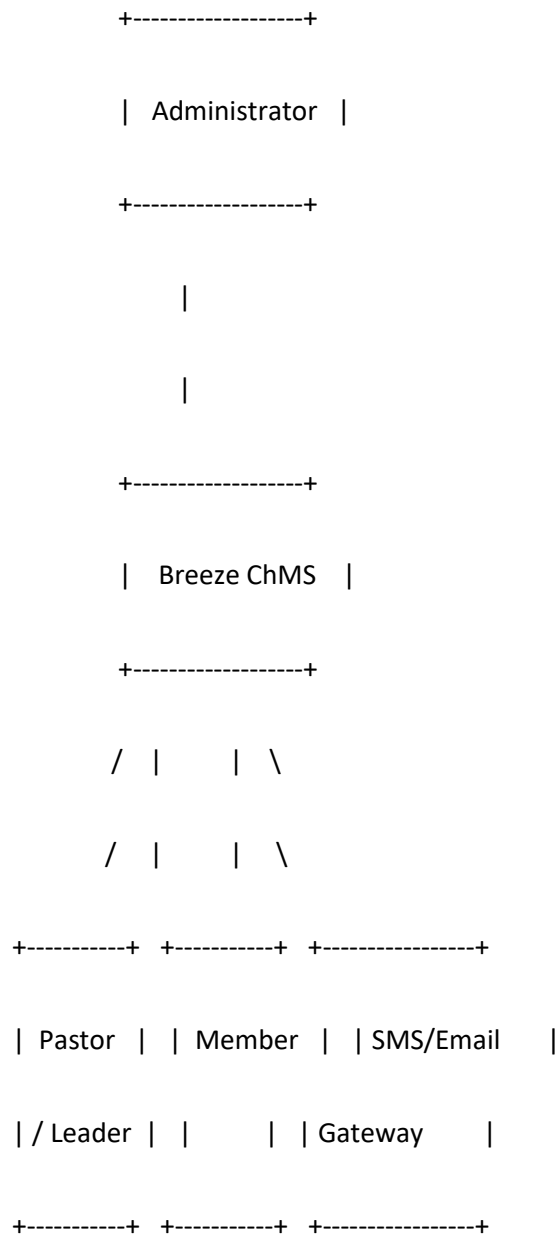
Elvanto is a full-featured solution best suited for medium to large churches, though it may be costly and complex for smaller congregations.

2.5 Summary of Literature Review

From the review of existing systems:

- **FellowshipOne** offers scalability and financial strength but is expensive and complex.
- **Church Community Builder** provides strong communication and engagement features but lacks customization.
- **Breeze ChMS** is affordable and simple but not scalable.
- **Elvanto** is robust and supports multiple campuses but is costly and has a learning curve.

This review shows the need for a **customizable, affordable, user-friendly Church Database and Communication System** that balances simplicity with scalability, specifically tailored to the needs of local churches.



Member Breeze ChMS Admin

| | |

|-- Register/Give Donation ----->|

| | |

| |-- Store Data ----->|

| |-- Notify Admin --->|

| |<---- Confirmation-|

|<--- Confirmation Email/SMS -----|

+-----+		+-----+	
Member		Admin	
+-----+		+-----+	
- MemberID		- AdminID	
- Name		- Username	
- Contact		- Role	
+-----+		+-----+	
+ Register()		+ ApproveReg()	
+ GiveDonation()		+ GenReports()	
+-----+		+-----+	
+-----+			
+-----+			

| Database |

+-----+

| - Members |

| - Donations |

| - Attendance |

+-----+

|

|

+-----+

| Notification |

+-----+

| +SendEmail() |

| +SendSMS() |

+-----+

+-----+ +-----+ +-----+

| Idle | ----> | Register Member | ----> | Record Attendance |

+-----+ +-----+ +-----+

|

v

+-----+

| Process Donation |

+-----+

|

v

+-----+

| Send Communication |

+-----+

|

v

+-----+

| Idle |

+-----+