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Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church adds powerful PA system comprised of One Systems loudspeakers to Worship Sanctuary.

Located in Midway, KY, Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church has earned an enviable reputation for attracting an active, involved congregation under the guidance of its senior pastor, Reverend Clyde Beverly II. Dating back some 135 years, the church serves the local community's spiritual needs through a mixture of social and religious gatherings. When church organizers decided to equip a new space as a temporary sanctuary and potential concert hall, the local contractor – ESP Audio - decided to install something a little unusual: an array of One Systems Model 112IM light-weight, copolymer, all-weather loudspeaker systems with Model 218Sub-W subwoofers.

“The all-new building measures 80 feet deep by 120 feet wide with a 24-foot ceiling,” explains ESP Audio owner Jim Prowant. “Currently, the church is using the space as a temporary sanctuary, and is planning to erect a second new building close by as a permanent sanctuary. The temporary area will then become whatever is needed for concerts, service overflow, youth events, a gymnasium and other gatherings. Prowant had specified a total of six Model 112IM cabinets for the large space. “Because of the large area to be covered by the church’s new sound system,” he recalls, “we were planning on installing a Left, Center, Right array, with two Model 112IMs per location, and a subwoofer added left and right. Instead, we decided to keep it simple and use a conventional left and right configuration, with three Model 112IM cabinets and two Model 218 subwoofers per side.”

Each trio of Model 112IM cabinets is flown above the lip of the stage at a height of around 16 feet; they are arranged in a line and splayed at around 30 degrees using One Systems' FLY112-IM flying hardware to provide enhanced sound coverage. The entire system is powered by Lab:gruppen C68:4 four-by-1,700W amplifiers, using a dbx Model 260 system controller. An Allen&Heath 32-channel analog console is on hand for mixing duties.

The Model 112IM comprises a single 12-inch I/O (Inside Only) LF driver and a large-format HF driver coupled to a fully rotatable ET (Equivalent Throat) high-frequency horn. The unit is designed for use in indoor as well as outdoor applications where high vocal intelligibility and accuracy are required. The unit's woofer utilizes a unique wind on the inside of the voice-coil support structure. Such a design allows for both high magnetic system displacement as well as increased thermal transfer, and results in reduced power compression and higher reliability. The patent-pending ET driver allows the unit's HF radiation pattern to be controlled by the phase plug summation plane rather than the conventional exit diameter. A large-format titanium diaphragm and a close-spaced circumferential ring phase plug insure extended high-frequency bandwidth.

The 218Sub-W is a double-18 high-output subwoofer housed in a wooden cabinet; a rectangular birch-plywood enclosure geometry provides increased low-frequency response compared to a conventional trapezoidal design. The 218Sub-W is intended for both outdoor as well as indoor installations where high output and accuracy are required. The 18-inch 18I/O (Inside Only) LD Driver utilizes a unique voice coil wind on the inside of the coil support structure, a design that allows for both high magnetic system displacement and increased thermal transfer. The result is reduced power compression and higher reliability.

According to Ken Voss, president of Online Marketing, One Systems' Indianapolis-based distributor, "We recommended the full-range and woofer cabinets to Jim Prowant at ESP Audio because the church needed a system that could deliver a lot of SPL for contemporary church services, as well as a subwoofer for enhanced low-end performance. Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church has a very active congregation. As a result, we knew that the hall would need a system with plenty of reach and articulation. The room is very long – we had no budget for delay speakers - so we needed to ensure a high SPL output from a single point source with a long throw down the sanctuary. We felt that a combination of three One Systems Model 112IM cabinets and a single Model 218Sub-W subwoofers per side would deliver the power the room needed, even without delay speakers. That combination proved to be a perfect choice."

"It's a great system," Prowant concludes. "While six full-range cabinets and two subs might be considered overkill for this space, the coverage throughout the sanctuary is outstanding. Four cabinets might have worked; six is nicer! And these Model 112IMs get real loud! The PA system has to handle a wide range of vocal and music performances, since the weekday and weekend services feature choirs and a small band. It is invaluable for voice reproduction; the mid-range throw, in particular, is very powerful. We have achieved a very even coverage with

no phase cancellation from the left and right speaker array. The configuration is working very well for the church.”

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