



John Setterlind, Summit Community Church

*A view of the worship space at Summit Community Church in Morganton, North Carolina, after an installation of Nova-Lite house lights and Blizzard ellipsoidals and accent lighting during a recent worship service.*

## GEAR > INSTALLATIONS

# North Carolina Church Undergoes Expansive Lighting Upgrade

*The church's lighting upgrade featured Nova-Lite VW150s LED house lights by Mega Systems, along with Blizzard LB Par Quad RGBA lights, and Blizzard Aria theatrical lights.*

Andres Caamano | Jul 13, 2018

MORGANTON, N.C. – For a church that averages about 700 congregants on Sundays, little had changed over the years at Summit Community Church with its house lighting, in a building that has served as its home since the mid-1980s.

**To make sure that the chosen lights would work at Summit, the fixtures were first tested at Hitefield's Louisiana office side-by-side.**

About four years ago, the church opted to add some theatrical lighting, including 12 moving lights, according to John Setterlind, Summit Community Church's worship pastor. The decision to take this dramatic next step and replace its house lighting, though, largely came from recognizing that "the existing system was failing," he said. "The company that (made that system also) was no longer in existence."

Helping the church with purchasing the new equipment for the project, along with the planning and install, were Jesse Hitefield, owner of Heritage Audio, based in Lakes Charles, Louisiana, and Rodney Herron, of Herron Electric and Control, located in Morganton, who is also a member of Summit's congregation.

While this was the first time that the church worked with Heritage Audio, Summit had previously worked with Herron, most recently on redoing lighting in its youth room about eight months ago.

As noted by Hitefield for this project, "(The church) had some lights going out, and the fixtures were high up in the air." To change out the incandescent bulbs required a lift, and replacing the incandescent bulbs was problematic, in that "you wouldn't know if the bulbs would live a week or a few years," he added.

The church's lighting upgrade featured Nova-Lite VW150s LED house

lights by Mega Systems , along with Blizzard LB Par Quad RGBA lights , and Blizzard Aria theatrical lights .

Completing the install work on-site was Herron, since the project would not have been “cost effective (for Louisiana-based Heritage Audio) to be on site to do the install,” noted Hitefield. To get a handle of the church’s needs without Hitefield traveling to Morganton, a combination of Skype, phone calls and emails were the tools of choice, to keep the lines of communication open in the leadup to the project and during the installation work.

With the help of Skype, for example, Hitefield noted how it helped in teaching the church about the products being installed, as well as with the setup. Setterlind also found the Skype meetings valuable between the three parties. “It was really wise for us to have a Skype meeting, showing every facet, and every nook and cranny (of the new system), as (Hitefield) pretty much designed this off campus. I would encourage a church to do that,” he added.

In the final weeks leading up to completing the lighting upgrade, Hitefield added, “Once they got rolling, the phone calls were frequent. When it came time to start testing, if we were not getting a signal here or there, I would coach them through troubleshooting, and how to program it.”

The console’s programming was handled with the help of a Summit church tech team volunteer, noted Hitefield,, who added, “he could set up the programming, and hooked them into their existing ETC system.”

While various retrofit options were considered on the project, after consulting with Hitefield, the decision was to replace the incandescent lights with new LED house lights.

In addition to the new house lights, another facet needing an update, noted

Hitefield, was the church's old dimmer system. One typical issue that needed to be rectified with this upgrade, was the prospect of flickering fixtures. To avoid that issue, Hitefield explained needing "to introduce a load resistor," which he noted was designed to "prevent the bapistry from flickering."

With Herron tasked with the installation work on-site, that included dismantling the old dimmer system, before rewiring it, to allow for power to be sent to the new system.

To find the ideal type of house lights for the worship space, Hitefield said, "we had gone through several manufacturers of product, to find the right fixture with the right coverage area, as well as the right color temperature and enough power to produce enough light."

Beyond those factors, Setterlind also noted that the cove section in the worship space required sampling different brands of lights as well. "I had to travel 18 feet, with some washes and needed to fill that cove, and not a lot more," he said. For that application, Blizzard ellipsoidals and accent lighting were selected.

To make sure that the chosen lights would work at Summit, the fixtures were first tested at Hitefield's Louisiana office side-by-side, "so we could see how they would perform at their site."

The install work at the church encompassed three weeks, concluding toward the end of March, with Herron noting was the last Sunday of the month, March 25.

"It was right about three weeks in all, with some tidying up and some loose ends in the final week," added Setterlind.

During the install, there were no delays or cancellations of services,

Setterlind said. Work on-site first began on a Monday, beginning with the removal of the old lights in the space, followed shortly thereafter with the install of the new fixtures.

Over the next couple of weeks, the weekend services, he added, “were not ready to use the (house lights) as DMX lights, so he had them temporarily on full, where we could only turn them off or on; it was very bright.”

The reason for that, Hitefield explained, was that “When you are putting in lights, they have to be bright, as you can always dim them.”

By the first Sunday in April, Setterlind added, “we were able to use color and dim, and brighten up areas.” Until the Nova lights were in place, “we didn’t realize how dim it truly had been (in the space using the old lights). There was a stark difference, from the old incandescent, to the new LED.”

To Setterlind, the most challenging aspect to the project was shortly after the completed install, an issue arose with one light in the midst of the new lights being used during its first service, relating to a problem with the DMX. “Tracking (the problem light) down was kind of tough, as we tested every side of the cable. We had to bring the lift back in, to test the Novas. We ended up sending (the light) back, and they fixed it, as it was a DMX issue. From there, it was smooth sailing.”

With the high up lights, to handle their removal, and then the ensuing install of house light LEDs, the lift was necessary for the work done during the week. For the weekend services over that time, the lift was set to the side of the worship center against the wall, with it later brought back in to swap out the light with the DMX issue.

For Herron, he too found the lift tied to the toughest part of the install, but instead cited issues with limited space to finish the project. “Working around the existing pews with a lift, we had to be real careful. If the pews



were not in there, it would have been a faster install, like 10 to 15 percent faster.”

In the ensuing four months since the install was finished, Setterlind found that between the Nova-Lite VW150 house lights, Blizzard LB Par Quad RGBA lights, and Blizzard Aria theatrical lights, that the Nova-Lite fixtures have made the most notable change in the space. “That is the starkest difference from what we had,” he explained. “The coverage is awesome.” On that question, Herron first chuckled, adding, “It’s just a different world. You can’t compare (the old lights) from the existing lights, it’s so much better.”

When asked about what the response has been from the congregation about the new lights, Herron noted, “I have received a lot of compliments at church, and at weekly home study groups. All I have heard is positive reviews about it. They can actually read their Bibles now.”



## 1.

A view of the worship space at Summit Community Church in Morganton,

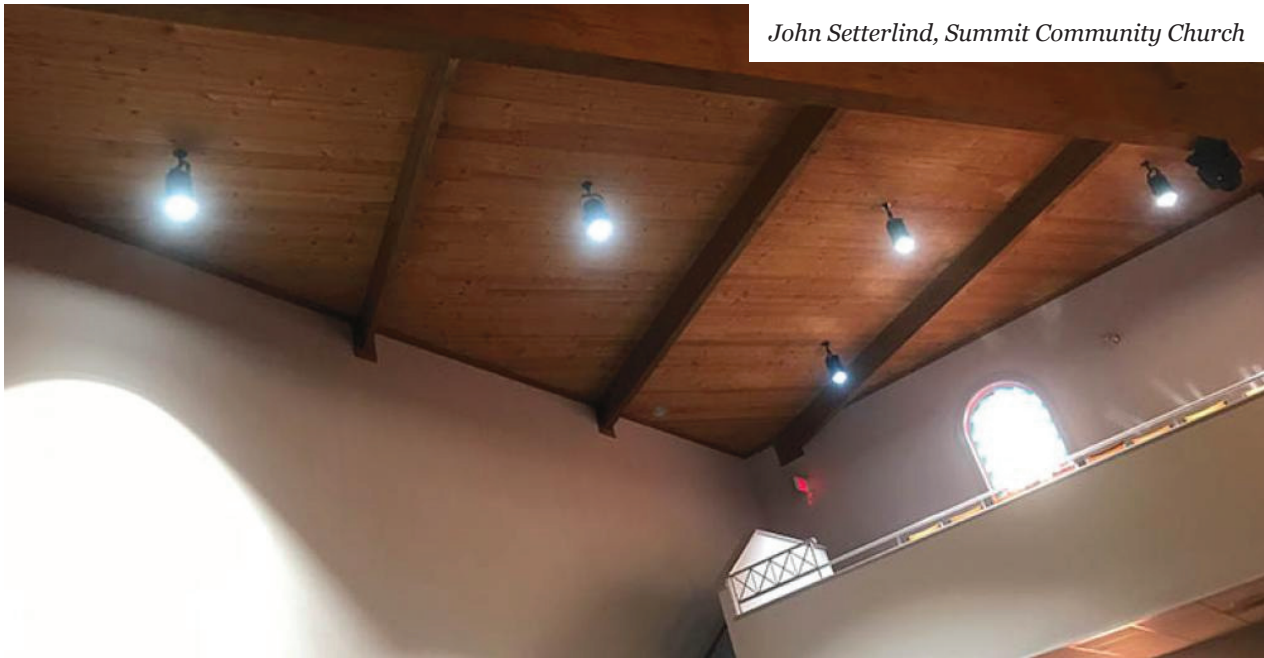
North Carolina, after an installation of Nova-Lite house lights and Blizzard ellipsoidals and accent lighting during a recent worship service.



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## 2.

A view of the worship space at Summit Community Church in Morganton, North Carolina, during an install in March of Nova-Lite house lights, with the help of a lift.



**3.**

A view of the worship space at Summit Community Church in Morganton, North Carolina, showing Nova-Lite house lights, installed in March.



**4.**

A view of the worship space at Summit Community Church in Morganton,



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A view of the worship space at Summit Community Church in Morganton, North Carolina, showing Nova-Lite house lights, installed in March.



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6.

A view of the worship space at Summit Community Church in Morganton, North Carolina, showing the use of various color lighting available as part of the lighting upgrade completed in March.



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9.



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