

SIX STEPS TO BUILDING COMMITTEE SUCCESS

Jack Coffee, Southeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY

Most building programs are difficult times for a church. Success or failure is determined by many factors. The most important decisions are usually made by the appointed building committee. After being a part of three building committee's and observing many others, I have found six steps that will improve the operation of the building committee.

1. **KEEP THE BUILDING COMMITTEE SMALL.** Three to five people are sufficient for the core committee. Larger committee's make it difficult to build consensus and gather for meetings. If more people are needed, place them on a sub-committee and have them report to the core committee. Fewer people improve chances for success and accelerate the process.
2. **INCLUDE COMMUNICATORS ON THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.** The chairman should be a strong personality who can keep the group on track and effectively communicate committee decisions to the congregation and church leadership. Professional construction people can be included to add expertise and knowledge of the construction process.
3. **SENIOR PASTOR SHOULD NOT BE ON THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.** Building programs are potential problems and the Pastor should not be identified with the negatives sometimes associated with the process. As the Spiritual Leader of the church the Pastor does not need to be a building committee "lightning rod."
4. **HAVE A STAFF REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.** As the primary users of the facility the staff must feel that their desires are being considered during the planning and construction of the new building. A staff member on the committee will also insure that committee decisions will be communicated to all staff members.
5. **CHOOSE PEOPLE WHO WILL WORK WELL TOGETHER.** Including negative or contentious people on the building committee will insure that the process will be difficult if not disastrous for the church. Each member must have a humble spirit and be willing to pray on their knees for God's will to be done.
6. **REMAIN FOCUSED ON THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.** The reason for constructing a new building for the congregation is to better fulfill the church's mission. If the committee loses focus on Christ and begins to function for other reasons, the process can become difficult and flounder without direction.