



A Needs & Feasibility Study Offers these Benefits...

Improves the outcome and satisfaction with the building program

Is a prerequisite step to church design and capital fundraising

Builds consensus and unity in the congregation

Balances needs and wants against financial ability and land capability

Reduces cost by helping avoid poor decisions

Provides a plan, budget and timeline for moving forward

Lowers the cost of design and, in many cases, construction

Improves congregational confidence and financial support

Provides an objective and fact based plan, timeline, and budget



ChurchDevelopmentServices

www.ChurchDevelopment.com
708 S. Rosemont Road, Suite 101
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757.623.3701



NEEDS & FEASIBILITY STUDY

Developing Clarity & Consensus in Building

What is a Feasibility Study?

Building today is both complex and expensive. The first step every church should take is to objectively understand what it needs to build and determine what is feasible to be built on the land within the financial ability of the church. The goals of a Feasibility Study are to identify and understand the current and future needs of the ministries, translate those needs into land and building requirements, and formulate a plan to make it happen.

Proverbs tell us that *"counsel establishes every purpose"* and *"the plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance."* The Needs and Feasibility Study is an effective tool for developing a plan and building consensus for the church that is unsure about what to build, if it is ready to build, or even able to build.

Unfortunately, most churches lack the experience to know all the proper questions to ask or how to translate answers into an effective building plan; *they often don't even know what they don't know.* This lack of knowledge leads to mistakes. Generally speaking, church leaders and building committees lack the "across the board" combination of church growth, financing, design, and construction experience to bring a building program to its optimum conclusion.

There is no shame or implied criticism of the church in getting outside counsel; the Scriptures tell us that both Moses and Solomon got outside help from experienced experts in their church building programs. Proverbs 24 also teaches that *"by wisdom a house is built"* and *"in a multitude of counselors there is safety."*

Because There Is No Right Way to Do the Wrong Thing

Build Unity • Avoid Mistakes • Reduce Risk

How Does it Work?

The study begins with the collection of several types of information about the ministry, the congregation, the community, and existing facilities. Historical attendance, current member demographics, and ministry financial information is collected and analyzed. Personal interviews are conducted with church leadership and workers to solicit their input on ministry needs and to understand the vision, culture, and goals of the church. Congregational surveys are conducted to solicit the views and priorities of the membership, the local building department is contacted, and other information is collected or analyzed as appropriate.

All the collected data is then analyzed and reviewed through the lens of our church building experience. Recommendations based on experience and sound church building practices are then put forth to answer the questions of:

- Does the church need to build, and if so, why?
- What does the church need to build and how was this determined from needs and vision?
- What can the church afford to build and how will it pay for the building program?
- When is the right time to build with consideration to financial ability?
- Where should the church build and why is that the right decision?

A report is provided to the church with a recommendation on the optimal solution, suggested timeline for moving forward, and an actionable plan. Optionally, conceptual drawings may be included to help visually communicate the recommendation.



30 Years of Ministry in Planning, Designing, Financing, or Building Over 1,000 Churches.

NEEDS & FEASIBILITY STUDY

Developing Clarity & Consensus in Building *continued...*



Why? How About Better Results with Less Effort!

It's all about the process! In the absence of an objective process, the only basis you have for making decisions is subjective opinion. Instead of conflicting opinions based on feelings or lack of experience in church design, you will get the reasoned and objective recommendation from a team that has been collectively involved in nearly 1,000 church building projects.

An independent study showed that those churches which completed a feasibility study prior to design or construction had much higher overall satisfaction with the final outcome and experienced less conflict during the building process. Practical experience also demonstrates that proper planning makes for an overall smoother and less expensive building program.

The benefit of developing confidence, unity, and widespread support cannot be understated. A proper process that solicits the input of the congregation and then presents a coherent plan to meet those needs is a unifying force. Typically, once the congregation votes to adopt the recommendations, the church enjoys the endorsement and support of well over 90% of the congregation in a church vote.

Additional Benefits to the Church

While each church derives its own unique combination of benefits from a Needs and Feasibility Study, every church should realize most, if not all, of the following benefits:

- Reduced conflict in the planning of church facilities
- Reduction in time commitments for the church leaders and building committee
- Elimination of poor ideas that waste time, money, and effort
- Congregational unity on appropriate action and timing
- Increased intellectual, spiritual, and financial support for the building program
- Reduced stress on the leadership and building committee
- Reduced cost in architectural and engineering fees and in avoiding costly mistakes
- Reduced risk: financial, legal, and relational
- More realistic expectations for the building program; a major factor in overall satisfaction

First Things First

Objectively understanding your needs and financial ability is the critical first step in a building program. Completing this step provides the clarity, confidence, and consensus to effectively prepare your church for both a capital campaign and architectural design.

We would welcome the opportunity to minister to your church in this important work. We recommend that a Needs and Feasibility Study be done as early in the planning process as possible. This timing will ensure you get the most value and benefit in reducing the effort and cost of the planning, design, and construction process.

ChurchDevelopmentServices



PLANNING



FUNDRAISING



DESIGN



FINANCE



CONSTRUCTION