

## *How Important Is The Building Project Schedule?*



**THE CHURCH BUILDING PEOPLE**



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Most of the time, when we talk about the "Project Schedule" during a church building project, those involved on behalf of the church think the only important thing in the schedule is how long it will take to complete the construction of the new building. The fact is, there are several very important things to consider long before the construction of the building even begins. Here are just a few things you should consider when developing a building schedule for your next project.

- **When do we need to be in the building?**

Sometimes the best place to begin is at the ending. By determining when you want to occupy the building, your architect or design/builder can determine the time that is allowed for the various tasks involved in the design and construction of your facility. It is not uncommon for a church to want the completion of their new facility to coincide with the church's anniversary date or perhaps they want to try to be in the building in time for Easter or Christmas services. Keep in mind that from the time a church selects an architect or design/build firm to the completion of construction can often take 18 to 24 months or longer, so be sure to give yourself plenty of lead time.

- **When will we kick off the funding program?**

This is extremely important when we consider how it will impact the capital funds campaign. For instance, we know that summer vacation times and Christmas are usually not the best times to conduct a fund raising effort for a new building. Our experience has shown that late summer or early fall are usually good times to "kick off" a funding campaign. Consequently, when working through a building schedule you might want to consider when your architectural design drawings will be completed and how that may impact the level of giving you can expect from your capital funds campaign. Likewise, if yours is a church that has several people who live elsewhere during the winter months, you probably want to wait for them to return home before kicking off the funding campaign.

- **When will construction begin?**

This can be a very important question when considering your geographical

location and the kind of weather you encounter throughout the year. For instance, in many parts of our country, starting construction in late November or early December is probably not the best time. Starting construction at the wrong time of year can cost thousands of extra dollars in such things as temporary heat and weather delay days. Sometimes, waiting just a few weeks can save your church thousands of dollars.

- **How long will the different parts in the process take?**

From a leadership standpoint, this is a very important question. It is important because it is easy to keep people excited and motivated about the building program during some parts of the process but very difficult to keep people excited during other parts of the process. For instance, people will be excited to see drawings of the new facility during the fast paced design portion of the project but they can get discouraged when there is little visible progress being made during the working drawing stage or the permitting process. A good leader will watch the building schedule closely and plan special activities to keep the congregation excited during the slow times of a building schedule.