

## Who Determines the Cost of a New Church Facility?



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Though the architect and builder you hire will have some influence on the cost of a new church facility, the major influence lies with your church leadership. Let me give you an example of what I mean by this. If you were having a new home designed and built for you and your family, the costs for that home would be based upon your selection of materials and systems. You would tell your designer the style of home you prefer, whether it be a two story colonial, a traditional ranch, a contemporary split-level, or some other customized design that you prefer. You would let your designer know what type of exterior finish to use, such as brick, stucco, fieldstone, aluminum or vinyl siding, etc. You would also help determine the number of windows to include, the type of doors to use, the wall coverings, floor coverings, kitchen cabinet, plumbing fixtures, the number of outlets in each room, the type and style of light fixtures, and so forth. You might even want to build your new home with sustainable or "Green" products.

Each of your selections would cost "x" amount of dollars. And, each change you made would have the potential of affecting the total cost of your new home. The same thing also occurs when you design and build new facilities for your church family. You will be involved in a lot of the decision making process that will have end up determining the cost of your new church facility. However, should you take a total "hands off" approach to the designing of your new church facilities, then obviously your architect would have a big influence on what your new facility would cost.

Too many times, church leaders think that the architect or builder has the most influence on what a facility will cost. The end result is...they do, but only after the church leaders have made decisions on what materials, products and systems will be incorporated into the new facility.

