

## *The Essentials Of An Effective Building Committee*



*By*  
**Earl Myler**  
*Chairman*

For every three church building programs that end up being successful, there are about 7 church building programs that end up being unsuccessful. That is an appalling number when you stop and think about it. So, what is the reason for those church building programs that fail?

There are many reasons that can be attributed to failed programs, but for most the reason lies in the selection of the building committee members that doom the program from the start. In order to be successful every committee member selected must have these three attributes:

1. **Commitment:** The essence of a team is a shared dedication and commitment to the achievement of the goal of getting a church facility built that will enhance the ministry of the church. You can, of course be committed to the ministry of your church, but not be committed to the amount of personal time you will have to spend to do the job right.
2. **Competence:** Often overlooked in developing a building committee team, the core competencies of its members are critical in determining how effective the team will be. Too many churches make the mistake of basing the selection of building committee members not on skills, but on formal titles or positions people hold in the organization or how long they have been a member of the church.

There are three sets of skills people on building committees should possess. The first is problem-solving skills. There are many, many problems that will come up throughout the entire building program, so this skill is an important one.

The second set of skills is interpersonal skills. All committee members need to be able to communicate clearly and concisely their positions and contribute to the joint effort of the team.

The third set of skills deals with technical competence. This does not mean that a committee member has to be an architect, builder, or lawyer. But, the committee member should have analytical skills that will help them read and understand such things as contracts, floor plans, etc.

3. Common Goals: Setting goals and developing plans of action for accomplishing the many goals and major tasks to be performed during a church building program is essential to the success of a building program. Therefore, it follows that every committee member has to have buy in to these many goals if significant progress is to be made. It is always important to “Begin with the end in mind”.

Though commitment, competence, and common goals aren't all it takes to have a successful building program, they are the essentials with which to start.