

Who Should be the Building Committee Chairperson?



By
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Having the proper Building Committee Chairperson can make the difference between a successful easy building program and a struggling failure. In over 35 years of working with church Building Committees we have identified a few criteria that make for good Building Committee Chairpersons.

First of all, the Committee Chairperson does not have to be an individual who is experienced in architecture or construction. While in some instances a person with experience in architecture or construction can be a great blessing to the committee, this is only true if the individual is a mature Christian who truly has the best interest of the church and the growth of the Kingdom at heart.

Without a doubt, the most important attribute a Committee Chairperson can have is Christian maturity. A Chairperson should be a person of great faith and a person of great prayer. There can be times during a building program that could shake the faith of a marginal Christian. The Building Committee Chairperson needs to be one who can stand firm in the midst of battle and rely completely on their faith in God. They must be one who can look square in the face of impossibility and yet pray completely for the miraculous.

A Building Committee Chairperson must also be a person who is trusted by the congregation. When the Chairperson stands before the congregation and asks the people to sacrifice, they must trust that the Chairperson is also a person who is already sacrificing for the project. Consequently, the Chairperson must have a respected history with the people. I know of a church that assigned a doctor as the chairperson of their Building Committee, The doctor had just recently joined the church but the Church Leadership reasoned that since the doctor was widely respected in the community he would also be respected in the church. As it turned out, very few people responded to the pleas of the doctor. Finally, at one gathering, after another useless plea of the doctor, an elderly Sunday School Teacher who had spent his life as a store clerk stood up and shared a personal testimony explaining how he had come to know Christ over 50 years ago as a result of the ministries of the church and how he had a passion for the growth of the church so that others could come to know Christ as well. Following his testimony, there

was a tremendous outpouring of support for the building project. Don't ever underestimate the importance of having a Building Committee Chairperson who is trusted by the people in the congregation.

The Building Committee Chairperson must also be a great leader. He/She should not be afraid to challenge the Pastor or other church leaders when they feel they are getting outside the reasonable expectations of the congregation. At times, the Pastor needs to have someone who can lovingly say NO. It takes a special person who can give the Pastor or other influential Church leaders honest counsel without being concerned about staying in the Pastor's "Good Graces." Simply put, a Building Committee Chairperson must be a well respected strong leading prayer warrior who is more concerned with the growth of the Kingdom than they are with their own personal standing in the church.