



TRINITY GROUP, LLC

# 5 Keys to Successful Church Building Projects

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Did you know?

70%

OF CHURCH BUILDING PROJECTS FACE SERIOUS ISSUES

Did you know that over 70% of all Ministry Construction Projects experience significant quality, budget and schedule issues? In fact, **only 10%** of total church building projects get completed without serious complications.





## WHY THE STAKES COULDN'T BE HIGHER

It's an unfortunate reality that most church building projects end up with serious complications that ultimately hinder their successful completion. In fact, fewer than half of church building projects even get past the design stage. Only about 10% of projects that are started by churches actually reach completion without any significant issues.

The reason for this staggering statistic varies, but most often it is a lack of thoughtful, thorough planning in the beginning that sets the stage for problems later in the project. But there are ways to avoid the common pitfalls that so many churches face. In fact, we've developed these **5 Keys to Successful Building Projects** for churches and non-profit organizations who are looking to build or upgrade their facilities.



The background is a dark, blurred photograph of a church interior. Several wooden crosses are visible, hanging from the ceiling or standing on the floor, creating a sense of depth and focus on the religious setting.

1) Let your ministry vision  
guide your planning

5 KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL BUILDING PROJECTS



# 1) Let your ministry vision guide your planning

Just like every person is different, with their own strengths and weaknesses, every ministry has its own DNA, with various gifts and distinctives. **Your ministry's unique vision should be the North Star of your planning process.**

Does your church have a strong children's ministry? Does your church emphasize spiritual formation or small groups? Current needs will dictate future requirements. Every aspect of your ministry should be taken into account within the very first phases of project planning and space programming.

Whether you realize it or not, your church is incredibly unique. Adopting a cookie-cutter building plan that doesn't take into account your DNA, your ministry vision and your specific needs can almost guarantee problems within the building process. Failure in this area can be one of the most disastrous and destructive aspects of a project.





## 2) Take a realistic look at your resources

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## 2) Take a realistic look at your resources

What can we afford? The answer may surprise you.

Just taking into account current assets and liabilities, you may feel confident in a budget for your building project. But things like loan interest rates, the cost of construction labor, or the ever-changing fluctuations in the cost of materials can cause significant shifts in what is feasible for your church. And once your project is finished, ongoing maintenance costs must be factored into your budget as well.

Taking an honest look at all aspects of a project and the potential costs involved is a crucial step in understanding what you can afford before you begin designing your facility. We generally suggest taking a thorough look at your current budget as well as having a preliminary conversation with a bank if you plan on financing part of your building project.



# 3) Develop a Master Plan and Execute In Phases

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# 3) Develop a Master Plan and Execute In Phases

There are dangers in both starting too big and in dreaming too small. Many churches attempt to execute a large-scale building project all at once, almost guaranteeing that when unforeseen circumstances or costs pop up that the overall plan suffers. Consequently, some churches build a facility that they quickly outgrow and are left with many of the same issues they had before they began.

Developing a Master Plan for your space and then executing it in Phases allows for greater flexibility in your building project. We've worked with many churches that are committed to raising all of the funds for each individual phase of the Master Plan and executing each phase as their financial goals are reached. This virtually guarantees that they are never left with unfinished buildings or poorly constructed facilities due to funds running out.

Executing your project in a phased manner also ensures that your congregation always has the future in mind and keeps a constant feeling of momentum and excitement wherever you currently are in your project Master Plan. Viewing your Master Plan as a series of small projects ensures that you stay on target while meeting the growing needs of your church as your budget allows.





## 4) Plan for Project Speed Bumps

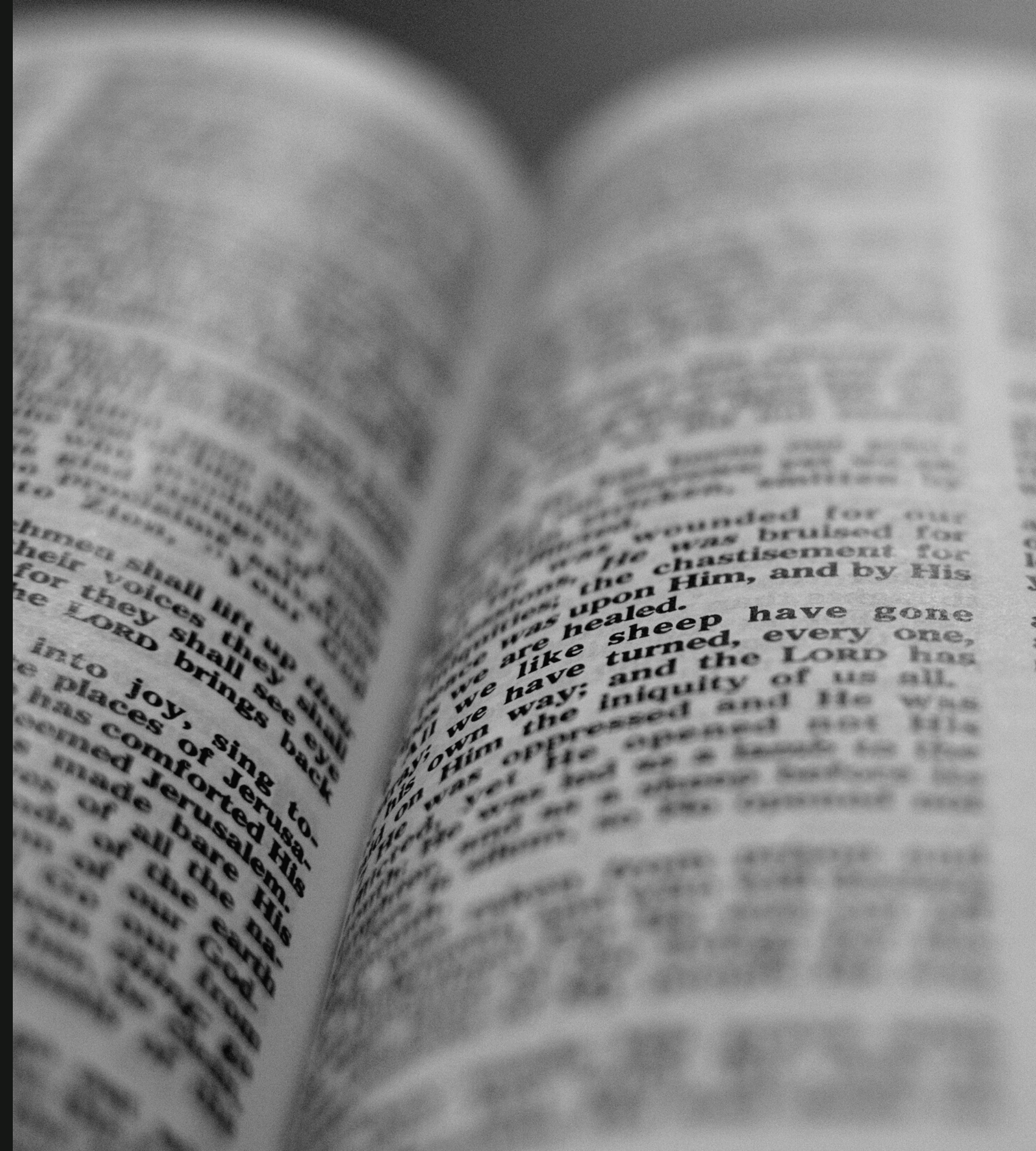
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# 4) Plan for Project Speed Bumps

It's almost guaranteed that any building project will encounter obstacles. Whether it be a shift in city code requirements for your property, unexpected utility costs, or even just weather conditions affecting construction, unforeseen expenses will undoubtedly pop up and can torpedo a building project if they aren't planned for. Leaving room in your budget and your timeline for variables is crucial so that unforeseen obstacles don't derail your project.

Working with seasoned experts can minimize these types of surprises, since experience brings a broader perspective of the types of expenses that can crop up.







5) Remember that your  
building is just a tool

5 KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL BUILDING PROJECTS



## 5) Remember that your building is just a tool

*“Without a vision, the people perish”. - Prov 28:19*

Maintaining a prayerful perspective of where your facility fits into your overall ministry is incredibly important.

Having good church facilities can help ministry happen more effectively and more efficiently. But even after your project has reached its completion, remember that a building is just a building. The success of a church doesn't solely hinge on the quality of their facilities.



## CONSULTATIONS & COACHING

We work with churches and nonprofits to assess their needs and help them craft a plan, whether they are looking to program space to maximize an existing facility or building a new facility from the ground up.

How  
We  
Help

## DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Our portfolio includes work on over 3,000 facilities and 80,000,000+ total square feet, giving us the experience needed to understand your unique needs, implement your vision and help you navigate the hurdles of a building project.





# Contact Us For A Free, No-Obligation Consultation

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