



## Feasibility Studies

Many churches are blessed to have several options to consider when expanding their facilities to meet the needs of their growing ministries. The church may want to hire an architect or consultant to thoroughly evaluate each of those options and report its findings in the form of a "Feasibility Study". The study includes conceptual architectural drawings, construction cost estimates, land use analysis, financial analysis, and other factors critical to the church.

The process of preparing the Feasibility Study will force the church to carefully, and prayerfully, consider the current state of the church ministry and to develop a vision for the congregation. The Feasibility Study will be based upon "best-estimates" and hard facts. The church will also need to consider intangible issues, such as sentimental attachment to the present facilities, tolerance for disruption of operations, and location.

A typical study may compare the renovation of existing facilities versus selling the church and relocating to a new site. The study will, therefore, involve analysis of land costs and availability, financing options, land usage, construction costs, architectural design, marketability of the church, construction schedules, alternative facilities for use during construction, operational expenses of the old facility versus a new building, and more.

The Study should ultimately result in a consensus of direction that has been developed by an independent, objective, and expert consultant with the input of the church leadership. The church can then move confidently forward knowing that all options have been carefully considered and that the church is united in the pursuit of its goals. A well-performed Feasibility Study may be the foundation for decisions that will be crucial to the church, both now and for many years to come.

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