

## $\Omega$ mega Church Consultants, Inc.

architectural • financial • consulting construction management

## **Master Plans**

A well-conceived building design anticipates the need of the church to expand its facilities and redefine the usage of space as the church grows. A "Master Plan" can be developed with the help of an architect to plan for the various phases of facility development that the church can foresee at their location. The benefits to the church of such planning are significant. A Master Plan will help the church use its land in the most efficient manner and should result in reduced costs when the time comes for the next addition or renovation project.

The church should consider how the utilities are being brought into the building and insure that those utilities (sewer, water, electrical and gas services) are adequate to meet the planned needs for the future. Another important consideration is the location of the utilities. Avoid installing underground utilities and parking areas in locations suitable for future building additions.

The church should also locate the facilities on the site with a long-range view of future development. If the initial structure will be used as a sanctuary and will later be converted into classrooms or fellowship space, perhaps this facility should be located on the site in an area behind the proposed sanctuary to be built in Phase Two of the Master Plan. Plumbing for future kitchens, baptistry, or restrooms can be roughed-in to save costs and headaches later.

Since it is God's plan for the church body to grow, we need to plan our facilities accordingly. A Master Plan of present and anticipated future development will save the church money in the future and will result in efficient utilization of land and facilities.

Jeff Thomas is Vice President of Omega Church Consultants, Inc., Church Designers and Builders, located in Indianapolis. You may contact him at <code>info@omegachurchdesign.com</code> or (317) 359-6248 or visit the Omega website at <code>http://www.omegachurchdesign.com</code>. Copyright 2001 All Rights Reserved.