



---

---

# Ωmega Church Consultants, Inc.

---

---

architectural • financial • consulting  
construction management

## Remodel or New Building?

In Indiana a commission was hired to determine the fate of the governor's mansion. This beautiful estate is a landmark on the city's historic North Meridian Street. The commission recently recommended that the governor move. It claimed the cost to renovate the home to meet current building standards, particularly the American's with Disabilities Act, would run into the millions. The commission estimated the cost of one handicap accessible bathroom at over \$100,000! The proper use of tax money is being debated.

Similarly, many churches are making hard choices about staying or moving. They need to expand but cannot acquire the land for an addition or more parking. Some buildings suffer from obvious obsolescence, such as small rooms and halls, inadequate heating and air conditioning or an overloaded electrical service. Other issues are more subtle. How far are current members willing to travel to a new building? What is the sentimental attachment to the building? Would a new church appeal to younger families? Could the church grow faster at a new location? Could additional ministries thrive in a new facility?

Just as the state of Indiana is doing, the church should hire a firm expert in architecture, construction, finance and real estate to help it determine the best move to make. A feasibility study can be made to examine the options available to the church. This cost/benefit analysis would compare two or more scenarios and would evaluate what could be gained, and at what cost.

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