



What story most represents your congregation's vision to its constituents?

A story makes an emotional connection with people. Framing your case for support as a story helps listeners relate to the needs and desires of the people your church is serving. The story provides a role for others to get involved by committing resources.



What are you asking others to do in support of your case?

A case is a call to action. Determine what you are asking others to do to support the case. Tell them the story. Ask for their support.

These questions are from *Coaching Church Planters to Make the Case for Their First Facility*, a ministry project report submitted to Gateway Seminary in 2018. For more information please contact:

Clint Calvert, D.Min.
Church Leadership Catalyst
Minnesota Wisconsin Baptist Convention
calvert@mwbc.org
507-254-0237



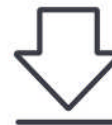
Is your church plant ready to own its first building?

Ask these ten questions to find out.



What have you heard from the Lord?

Church leaders discern how God is leading them personally and their congregation with regard to church facilities.



How is your architectural judgment theologically informed?

The church is not a building. Church leaders understand God's design and desire for the church to keep this distinction clear.



How is your proposed solution connected to a prior problem?

People will not connect emotionally to a vision until they can see how the vision is a solution to a problem. The problem is not that the church needs a building. The building helps the church solve a problem in the community.



What images, phrases, or concepts best articulate your vision?

Explaining a problem and proposed solution will resonate with others when given in terms they understand and images they appreciate. Find the word-pictures, metaphors, and illustrations that bring the opportunity into focus.



Who do you need to engage to move the project forward?

Make a careful study of the people who are key influencers in the congregation. Appraise your relationship with each of these key people. Sometimes the people we need to work with the most are the ones with which we have the most conflict.



What are your congregation's possibilities, constraints, and directions?

Church leaders will discuss their shared view of their situation. A systematic consideration of the church's potential and limitations can aid in giving the church a shared direction.



How would your congregation describe the space that best fits the needs of your ministry?

The church needs to determine criteria for the space its ministry requires. This criteria is called a facility plan. A facility plan assists the church in finding space that meets the needs of its ministries.



Has your congregation put the pain of the perceived need for a facility in perspective?

A church's desire for a facility is addressing some pain the church feels in its current situation. The pain is real. However, a careful consideration needs to be made to see if this pain can be addressed incrementally instead of assuming access to a building seven days a week is necessary, at an exponential cost.