

Space Issues That Affect Church Health

The following information is a summary of critical space issues a church may face as they seek to become a healthy, growing congregation. Each of the following areas are discussed on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention website at www.absc.org/teams/evangelism-church-health

Healthy churches require five types of space.

- Worship- where we meet God and gather with other believers to be challenged by His Word
- Education . where we grow disciples, minister and serve together
- Fellowship . where we build unity and reach others through relationships
- Parking
- Sewer . whether city or rural, it has to be there.

If any of these are inadequate, then church growth and church health can be affected. Different types of churches will provide these areas in different ways, but all are vital.

The following are “rules of thumb” for space requirements in a traditional church setting.

(Measurements are “per person”, unless otherwise noted)

<p>Worship</p> <p>Auditoriums less than 250 17-20 sq. ft. Auditoriums over 250 20-25 sq. ft. <i>(Includes seating, foyer, stage & restrooms)</i></p> <p>Foyer 2 sq. ft. minimum per person Pew seating 20-24 inches per person Chair seating 24 inches per person (Maximum Capacity. See 80% rule)</p> <p>Choir 10% of congregational seating</p> <p>Fellowship</p> <p>Dining For churches up to 300, fellowship capacity equal to worship capacity.</p> <p>Seating</p> <p>Long Tables 12 sq. ft. Round Tables 15 sq. ft.</p> <p>Kitchen 20-25% of dining area</p> <p>Equipment storage areas Separate preparation/hygiene sinks</p>	<p>Education</p> <p>Preschool 30-35 sq. ft. Children 20-25 sq. ft. Youth/Adults 12 sq. ft. Youth/Children Worship Area 15 sq. ft. <i>(Includes stage area)</i></p> <p>Recreation</p> <p>High School Basketball Court Size 84x50q <i>Banquet seating for 350-400</i></p> <p>Jr. High Court Size 74x42q <i>Banquet seating for 250-300</i></p> <p>Ceiling height 22qminimum</p> <p>Property</p> <p>Land 100 people per acre of usable land 80-85 if septic system is required</p> <p>Parking 1 space per 2 persons on site 100 cars per acre of land Handicap parking is required</p>
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Indicators that might reveal space issues

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship capacity near or exceeding 80% capacity • Small/cluttered foyer area • Individual adult/youth classrooms near or exceeding 80% capacity • Poor attention given to children/youth areas • Inadequate/unpaved parking/ guest parking • Inadequate signage/ marked entrances • Poor sound/lighting system in worship area • Lack of a Welcome center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor maintenance (water stains, paint) • Clutter • Outdated lighting, dark wall covering, low ceilings • Facilities that do not speak to the culture of the community • Security concerns, particularly in preschool and children’s area |
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A church’s options when faced with a lack of space

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up the clutter. Update the building • Reassign space to meet needs • Multiple Worship/Sunday Schools • Alternate scheduling • Move off campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Home groups for Bible Study ○ Video/satellite venues for worship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remodel existing facilities • Rent additional facilities • Build something new • Relocate to a new location • Begin a mission or church plant • Cease to grow |
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For additional information on space usage and design issues, contact the Evangelism and Church Health Team at 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5114 or lriley@absc.org.