



Facility Stewardship Today

“Improving church health through Facility Stewardship”

www.facilityministry.org

Jim Rodgers—Architectural Pastor

Spring, 2015

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Church Building Team Members is the theme for this 5th installment of Facility Stewardship Today—a newsletter about “Improving church health through Facility Stewardship,” with blog highlights from the last six months at www.facilityministry.org.

For His Service & Yours,

Profile for Church Building Team Members



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The recipe for a successful building project starts with the right people on your building team—that includes outside consultants you may hire, but also the church committee(s) that will represent your church with those consultants. Therefore, I am often asked, “What is the profile of people we should add to our church building committee/team?”

Even before they ordered their lattes, Larry sensed that Pastor Jim might have an agenda.

My basic response includes:

- A. Spiritual maturity
- B. Team players who can work well with others and recognize the big picture
- C. Demographic mixture—men/women, age or affinity groups
- D. Some background in design, construction, or project management

5 Reasons to Add a Dragon to Your Building Team!

In addition to the profile above, there may be times when you may want to complete your building team with a “Dragon!”

Continue reading on page 2.



Verse for Today (vft):

“And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”
(2 Timothy 2:24-26—NIV 84).

Ministry Encouragement:

“Leaders must work with people, or their leadership will not be effective. . . Christian leaders who develop group facilitation skills will be more effective, happier, and respected. But more important, they will be following the pattern of their Lord” (Kenneth Gangel, [Team Leadership in Christian Ministry](#), —page 148).

Link Highlight:

Worship Facilities produces magazines (free if you sign up) and conferences about ... Worship Facilities. My article about a dragon on your building team first appeared here: http://www.worshipfacilities.com/article/5_reasons_you_really_do_want_this_type_of_person_on_your_building_team

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[5 Reasons to Add a Dragon to Your Building Team! \(continued\)](#)

By dragon, I mean the kind identified by Marshall Shelley in his classic book, *Well-Intentioned Dragons: Ministering to Problem People in the Church*. They don't mean to be difficult, that's why they are called "well-intentioned." However, their personalities and methods often breathe fire. And since we recognize them as dragons, pastors may be hesitant to put them on a building team. Certainly, not all dragons should be included, but here are five reasons you may want to consider adding a well-intentioned dragon to your building team.

- 1. Well-Intentioned Dragons care deeply about your church.** The adjective "well-intentioned" flows from their passionate concern for the things of God. They are trying to help any situation and see themselves serving as part of God's plans. You want people on the team who can work towards the big picture benefits for the church. So, if their dragon-like characteristics can be managed, they may actually represent the "church first" thinking you desire.
- 2. Well-Intentioned Dragons will speak up.** Because our best servants often consider others' interests first, they sometimes keep quiet in order to keep peace. A building team will be wrestling with important issues which need multiple points of view for effective decision making. Therefore, keeping silent—just to maintain peace—actually creates a false sense of support for project decisions. People are dragon-like because they want their views heard and on a building committee, we may need to consider their contributions.
- 3. Well-Intentioned Dragons often have a following in the church.** Our building teams should include various demographic representations. While we can't accommodate every affinity group, overall church support may hinge on people feeling their views are represented. Sometimes people become well-intentioned dragons because of the following they develop. Let me be clear—some people in the church will be disappointed by decisions from the building team. However, if they have a sense of representation, they may still support the project.
- 4. Well-Intentioned Dragons may have valuable input.** Chapter seven of Shelley's book is titled, "When the Dragon May be Right." Because dragons are difficult people, it is easy to shoot down their ideas without actually evaluating the possible value. However, the wise leader is looking for the best decision making information, regardless of the source—even if it comes from a dragon. Also, a dragon's input may be representative of an influential group in the church—remember, they often have a following.
- 5. Well-Intentioned Dragons can be trained for other leadership in the future.** Based on the previous four reasons, we are recognizing some possible value for a well-intentioned dragon. And perhaps God is working in their lives so that service on our building team may be a key to accelerated spiritual growth. Then as a result, perhaps they may become less dragon-like for future ministry opportunities.

Let me clearly state: well-intentioned or not, we do not want a building team composed of dragons. However, there are compelling reasons to consider some folks you might otherwise dismiss. You may conclude that their fire is too hot for inclusion on the team. However, the exercise of evaluating their participation will better prepare you to work with the rest of the building team—which at times may manifest their own dragon-like characteristics.

** Cartoon by Dennis Fletcher at: <http://www.buildingchurchleaders.com/multimedia/cartoons/meeting-agenda.html>