Why Senior Pastors Should Care About Facility Stewardship



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Let's get real for a moment. Senior Pastor, you're juggling a lot. Sermon prep, leadership development, counseling, vision casting, board meetings, and—let's not forget—those unexpected late-night emergencies. It's a full plate. So when someone brings up facilities (the HVAC system, leaky roof, or that suspicious water stain in the fellowship hall), it's easy to wave it off as "not my job."

But I want to challenge that thinking.

As a senior pastor, you absolutely should care about the condition and stewardship of your church facility. Not because you're a maintenance director—but because you're the chief steward of your church's mission. And your facility is one of the most valuable tools God has entrusted to that mission.

Your Facility Preaches a Message

Before you step into the pulpit, your building has already spoken. Peeling paint, stained carpet, cluttered lobbies, and broken signage may not seem like spiritual matters—but they communicate something. They communicate your values, your priorities, and whether you care about the people walking through your doors.



It's not about perfection. It's about intentionality. If we say we're here to glorify God and serve His people, but our buildings scream "neglect," there's a disconnect. Your facility is a silent sermon. What's it preaching?

Stewardship Isn't Optional: It's Biblical

Luke 16:10 reminds us: "Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much..."

That includes HVAC filters and cracked sidewalks. You may not personally change light bulbs, but you set the tone for whether your church views facilities as a liability or an asset. Whether it's something we react to in crisis or proactively plan for. As the senior leader, your voice gives permission—and priority.

When you speak about the importance of maintaining God's house, you model biblical stewardship to your staff, board, and congregation.

Ministry Happens in Real Spaces

You know this. Ministry isn't abstract—it's incarnational. It happens in classrooms, sanctuaries, hallways, and parking lots. Whether it's preaching the Gospel, discipling new believers, hosting VBS, or serving the homeless, your ministry needs space.

So here's the question: *Is your facility enabling your mission or hindering it?*

Deferred maintenance, poor layouts, and broken systems don't just make life harder—they can limit ministry opportunities, drain financial resources, and create safety risks. And let's be honest: When the roof leaks during worship or the boiler breaks before Christmas Eve service, who do people look to? The senior pastor. Caring before it becomes a crisis is leadership. And stewardship.

You Don't Have to Be an Expert

This isn't a call to become a facilities manager. It's a call to champion facility stewardship as part of your church's discipleship and operational strategy. You don't have to know the difference between an RTU and a chiller. You just need to:

- Acknowledge the importance of your facility in supporting ministry.
- Empower and support your facility team or volunteers.
  Ensure your leadership team prioritizes maintenance planning and capital reserves.
- Talk about stewardship from the stage—not just financial, but physical.

Five Questions Every Senior Pastor Should Ask

Before you can lead your church toward better facility stewardship, it helps to take an honest look at where things stand today. Start by asking yourself and your leadership team these five questions:

1. Do we have a proactive facility management plan—or do we wait for things to break?
2. Are we setting aside funds each year for major repairs and replacements?
3. What does our building say to a first-time guest?
4. Are we investing in our facility like we believe ministry happens here?

5. Who on staff or in leadership owns facility stewardship—and are they empowered to succeed?

Final Word

Pastor, you carry the spiritual weight of your church—but don't overlook the physical foundation beneath your feet. Ministry doesn't happen in theory; it happens in real spaces. Those classrooms, sanctuaries, and hallways are not just buildings. They're tools for the Gospel. Don't wait until something breaks to start caring. Lead with foresight and steward the space like it matters—because it does.

If you're not sure where to begin, Smart Church Solutions would be honored to walk alongside you. Facility stewardship is what we do, so you can stay focused on what you do best: leading God's people.

"Let all things be done decently and in order." — 1 Corinthians 14:40

That includes your church facility.



Tim Cool

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Tim Cool is the President and CEO of Smart Church Solutions and takes great pride in helping churches optimize their facilities. When he's not at the helm of his company, he's dedicated to his family, being a husband to Lisa and a father to 27-year-old triplets. An enthusiast of the outdoors, Tim enjoys the simplicity of hiking in the North Carolina mountains.

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