



Kingdom Spaces – From Empty Space to Kingdom Impact

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

The Opportunity

Churches across the country are facing a quiet tension. Buildings are often larger than current weekly needs, while ministry budgets feel tighter than ever. Classrooms sit empty for most of the week. Offices go unused. Entire facilities are active for only a handful of hours, yet they consume a significant portion of a church’s financial resources.

This reality is not a failure. It is an opportunity for wise stewardship.

At its core, stewardship is not simply about ownership. It is about faithful use. Church facilities are not trophies to be protected or preserved at all costs. They are tools entrusted to the church for the purpose of advancing the mission.

A helpful starting question for every leadership team is simple. How does our facility play a role in our mission? When that question is answered honestly, it often reveals that some spaces are essential and fully utilized, while others exist largely on standby.

The Hidden Cost of Idle Space

Empty space is not free. Mortgage payments, utilities, maintenance, and insurance exist whether a room is used or not. The cost of unused space quietly competes with ministry funding. Space that sits idle drains resources. Space that is activated for ministry multiplies impact.

Motivation Matters - Income and Mission

When churches consider allowing others to use their facilities, motivations matter. In some cases, shared uses are primarily motivated by financial pressures. Others are motivated by missional strategies. Healthy leadership teams acknowledge both. Income can relieve budget pressure and create margin. Mission alignment ensures the building serves the church’s calling rather than distracting from it. Scripture reminds us that faithfulness with what has been entrusted to us matters, including resources that do not belong to us in the first place (Luke 16:10-12).



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“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?” (Luke 16:10-12)

Discernment and Deployment

Sharing space does not mean abandoning discernment. Not every use is appropriate. Not every partnership is wise. Sometimes a paying tenant is not the right solution. But when space is shared with other churches, schools, nonprofits, or community programs aligned with the church’s values, facilities become platforms for kingdom multiplication.

The goal is not to become landlords. The goal is to deploy resources wisely. Discernment processes help churches establish boundaries, identify appropriate uses, and move forward with unity and clarity. Counting the cost and looking at the options will help your leadership team make wise decisions for your church (Luke 14:28).

The most important question is not how do we protect the building? The better question is how does this building help us fulfill our mission? When churches approach facilities through that lens, stewardship becomes an act of faith rather than fear.

Is your leadership team sensing that God may be inviting you to steward your facility in new ways for greater Kingdom impact? If you long to see your building used in ways that reflect your church’s values, mission, and heart for ministry, we would love to walk alongside you.

Our team is here to help you explore possibilities with wisdom, clarity, and prayerful discernment. **Reach out to us for a free consultation**, and let’s discover together how your space can serve God’s purposes in even greater ways.

You can connect with us anytime at kingdomspaces@churchrealty.com.