
Temporary Worship Sites for NewStarts

The Church of the Nazarene continues to respond to the challenge of starting 1,500 new churches by 2008, our Centennial celebration. As all across the USA and Canada existing Nazarene congregations are sponsoring new daughter churches, many of the various issues remain the same, including finding a place for the new church to meet each week.

Locating and securing a place to meet may be one of the most important tasks in starting a strong new church. With some awareness and creativity, NewStarts may be able to secure a very attractive property for worship gatherings without having to compromise on their commitment to excellence or taking on too much of a financial burden for a new church.

One of the most common mistakes new churches make is to commit to purchasing a property too soon. Even though a large number may be attending worship, commitments to mortgages and property payments must be based upon contributing membership, not just worship attenders. This process usually takes approximately four to five years to accurately discern projecting operational budgets or future building campaigns.

In the first years of ministry, most NewStarts begin worshipping together in rented or leased properties. By carefully choosing a property for its visibility and flexibility, a new congregation can insure that even a rented property will not be the foot how big to grow." With some creativity and flexibility, most NewStarts can find an adequate property to use for their early years of worship and ministry formation.

Among the various considerations for selecting a temporary property, the following list of suggestions may prove helpful. One of the helpful things for new churches is they tend to meet for worship when other businesses are not operational, early on Sunday mornings. Some of the places to consider could include:

- Existing Nazarene Churches
- School District for available schools
- Seventh day Adventist Churches
- Community Centers
- Available Commercial Properties
- Restaurants
- College Campus
- Churches of other denominations
- Community Country Clubs
- City or County Office Buildings
- YMCA or other Christian organizations
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Hotels with Conference Rooms
- Park and Recreation Buildings
- Libraries

Several factors need to be considered in making a final choice for the

available options for a temporary meeting facility. The following list of questions provides some of the basic things to remember:

1. What kind of visibility will this temporary property give the new church in the community? Will exterior temporary signs be permitted during worship hours?
2. Is the property easy to find and accessible for first time attenders?
3. Will this temporary property provide the right image for this NewStart Church?
4. Are there breakout spaces for other meetings to be conducted simultaneously to the adult worship, like a children's ministry, nursery and/or youth activities?
5. Will the property be exclusively used by the church during its meeting times, or will they be required to share their meeting place with other groups?
6. How much parking will be available for the church's meetings?
7. What will be the seating capacity for the adult worship services? Will an equal number of children be accommodated in the classroom space? Will it be possible for multiple services to be held over a weekend?
8. What kind of contract can the new church anticipate, that reflects both the cost of the lease as well as the length of the contracted time to use the property?

While these questions only provide a very basic review for considering a temporary property, they may guide church leaders in this important decision. Of course, the other alternative growing in popularity is for NewStarts to begin meeting in an existing Nazarene Church. They use the property the sponsoring church can provide, particularly if the new church is cross cultural. By allowing a new church to use an existing Nazarene property, the sponsoring church gives the daughter church time to gather a committed core group.

Starting a strong new church the right way does not mean every NewStart looks alike and functions the same, anymore than every child in a family is an

identical twin. For a hundred new churches, there may be one hundred different approaches to launching a new church including finding an adequate meeting facility. Each new church must consider its own situation, the available resources and the target group they are called to reach for Christ. By carefully and prayerfully considering the options they have in choosing a temporary property, the new congregation can be launched in a time and place that makes the greatest impact on unchurched lives for Christ and the Kingdom.

For additional resources for NewStarts, feel free to log onto their website at www.NewStartUSA.org or call the toll free number at 1-800-306-8294.