



PR CONTACT: Barbara Kauffman  
717.838.3668

## **CHURCH BUILDING 101:** **INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS UNITE FOR INFORMATIVE SEMINAR**

Church construction, where does a building committee begin? Is it getting plans together? Or do the finances come first? Do we renovate? Do we build? Do we move? And more important, how do we get it built?

Five industry professionals from banking and fundraising to architects and contractors have united to create a three-hour seminar: ***Church Building Committee 101***. Participants may select which three-hour seminar they would like to attend either Monday, April 19 at the Evangelical Theological Seminary, Myerstown, or Thursday, April 29, at First United Methodist Church, Hershey, with registration and light refreshments beginning at 6:00 p.m. both nights.

According to C. Eugene Musser, president of Kirby-Smith Associates, Church Fundraising Consultants who is spearheading the seminars, presenters will be representatives from Arthur Funk and Sons, Inc, Construction Services, in Lebanon, Beers & Hoffman, LTD, Architects in Lancaster and Lebanon, Fulton Bank, M& T Bank, as well as Kirby-Smith Associates.

“These five companies have become partners to outline the nuts and bolts a building committee needs to get started, with these informative evenings designed just for the layperson, council members and pastors,” said Musser. “Topics include fundraising, construction, design, stewardship and financing.”

Musser noted that inevitably church teams all have the same thoughts prior to beginning any construction project: “We have outgrown our building, now what?” Or, “Do we have enough land to build?” Or, “Is this the right time to proceed?”

“That last question is very important in this challenging economy,” added Musser. “Each seminar, whichever night you are able to attend, will be the right place to find the answers!”

Presenters include:

**C. Eugene Musser, President, Kirby-Smith Associates:** He will discuss church stewardship issues, capital campaigns, and giving as part of the vision process.

**Robert J. Funk, P.E., LEED AP, President, Arthur Funk & Sons:** He will talk about the construction process and developing a partnership between the church and building contractor to successfully complete the vision.

**Robert L. Beers, R.A., A.I.A., President, and Scott L. Shonk, R.A., A.I.A, Associate Partner, Beers & Hoffman, Ltd. Architects:** These two will discuss the importance and benefits of assessing your church’s needs through Master Planning and Programming studies to best meet your congregation’s goals and vision.

**Rebecca G. Witherite, Vice President, Fulton Bank:** She will examine how to determine your financial strengths and how to make the vision become a reality when external funding is required.

**Harry L. Morgan, Assistant Vice President, M & T Bank:** He will help participants discover the financial strategies open to church congregations and how those options work to fulfill the unique needs of your church’s vision.

Registration is required at least 10 days prior to each seminar by visiting [www.kirbysmith.com](http://www.kirbysmith.com) or by email [kirbysmith@aol.com](mailto:kirbysmith@aol.com). The cost for the evening is \$10.00 per person with checks made payable to Kirby-Smith Associates. For more information, call Paula Cargill at 1-800-762-3996. For directions to the seminars, participants may visit [www.evangelical.edu](http://www.evangelical.edu) and [www.firstumchershey.org](http://www.firstumchershey.org).