

# Church Office Space: For the Young People

By Jack Hall

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*Pastor Lumburgh and the others are seated at a conference table.*

LUMBURGH- So you should ask yourselves, with everything you do, Is this good for the church? Amen?

ALL- Amen.

LUMBURGH- Yeah. Now, let's open the floor for discussion. Doug, you wanted to address a new ministry?

DOUG- Yes, Pastor. I was thinking it might be a good time to start a young adults ministry. We seem to graduate a lot of kids from the student ministry who go off to college and vanish. Don't you think we should do something for them? Maybe a late night program during the week or--

LUMBURGH- Oooh, yeah, uh... I'm gonna have to go ahead and sort of, disagree with you there? Yeah. You see, we're already so maxed out on the weekly schedule, I just don't see where we have the time for another program.

DOUG- We could use the fireside room on Tuesdays. There's nothing happening there.

LUMBURGH- Yeah, uh, that's not going to work. You see, that's the classroom our elder members class meets, and frankly, they, uh, contribute a lot more money than the young adults. Which is another reason not to do the program.

DOUG- But, Pastor, I'm willing to lead the program volunteer.

LUMBURGH- Yeah, uh, that's great, but you see, we have fixed costs like electricity and water.

DOUG- But these kids are leaving church for good! Someone help me out here.

BILL- Perhaps we could ask the students to bring in candles so we save on lights? Young people like worshipping with candles.

LUMBURGH- Okay, I like what I'm hearing.

DON- And we can lock the bathrooms. They can hold it for 45 minutes.

LUMBURGH- Yeah, uh, if they could do that, that would be great. All in favor?

MOST- Aye.

LUMBURGH- Opposed?

GUS- Nay.

LUMBURGH- Yeah, motion carries. But the second this costs us a dime, we'll have to uh... pray about it. Now, who was next?

LARRY- Pastor? The outreach committee received an invitation to co-host a major music event in town. As chair of the committee, I think this is a great chance to do something for the community, as well as get our name out there.

LUMBURGH- Yeah, right. Now who was it that gave us the invitation?

LARRY- The Methodist Church on Silver--

LUMBURGH- Ooooh, yeah, uhh... that's not gonna work for us. You see, the Methodists tend to be a bit liberal, and I'm just not sure we want to be associated with them. You see, we can't have them deceiving people into believing lies like "women can be pastors" and "sprinkling is the same as immersion."

LARRY- What if we took total control of the altar call?

LUMBURGH- Yeah, uh, that might be more to God's will. All in favor?

MOST- Aye!

LUMBURGH- Opposed?

GUS- Nay.

LUMBURGH- Yeah, uh, motion carries. Next?

DON- Pastor, we have received an invitation to participate in the Humonga Community Church Leadership Conference this June. They asked if we would be a satellite location. We would play host for churches from all over the tri-county area.

LUMBURGH- Oooh, yeah, Humonga. They have certainly been good to us in the past. We've, uh, had a lot of growth from adopting their policies. But I'm just not sure we can open our doors to other churches like that. You see, we can't have Pentecostals wanting to speak in tongues during worship, or Catholics praying to their saints while true men of God try to save their souls.

DON- They've offered us 20% of the registration fees and a new satellite system.

LUMBURGH- All in favor?

ALL- Aye!

LUMBURGH- Motion carries.

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Our son recently went out of town for a few weeks on business, taking his new bride with him. When they returned, this was on their answering machine...

MESSAGE 1- Yeah, hi, this is Pastor Lumburgh. We noticed you weren't in Sunday School this morning. Just wondering where you are.

MESSAGE 2- Yeah, hi, Pastor Lumburgh. You were not in your usual spot, just wondered if you knew we had church at the usual time. Yeah, it's not Daylight Savings Time or anything.

MESSAGE 3- Yeah, hi, Pastor Lumburgh. We missed you in church this evening. Just wanted to make sure you knew we still had Sunday evening service. Yeah. Pastor Dick still needs a tenor if you can make it to choir practice, and if you need to, you can drop your tithe at the church office.

MESSAGE 4- Yeah, hi, it's Pastor Lumburgh, it's about Tuesday now. Just wondering where your tithe is.

MESSAGE 5- Yeah, hi, Pastor Lumburgh. You 40 Days of Purpose Group leader said you all didn't make it last night. Yeah, just wanted to see if you had any questions on the workbook for this week.

MESSAGE 6- Yeah, hi, Pastor Lumburgh. We didn't see you at Wednesday evening meal. Yeah, that's \$3.50 a piece we need for the dinner. And we still need that faith promise tithe. Yeah, the Lord doesn't give discounts.

MESSAGE 7- Yeah, hi, Pastor Lumburgh. I hear you missed softball practice. Just making sure you haven't been in the hospital or gone Lutheran on us.

MESSAGE 8- Yeah, hi, we're at the softball game. Missing our star short stop, though I don't know how much God would bless your play today. Yeah, your tithe's a week past due.

MESSAGE 9- Yeah, hi, it's Pastor Lumburgh. You know you're on the schedule for the nursery this morning. Yeah. Jesus needs you with his kids, so let's be there today with a double tithe.

MESSAGE 10- Yeah, hi, it's Pastor Lumburgh. I just spoke with the preschool minister, and she informed me you arranged to be away for a week on business. Yeah. Just hope you took your 40 Days workbooks along, and found a church to attend consistent with our denominational beliefs today and last Sunday. But I hope you didn't give them your tithe. Yeah. We are trying to build a new gymnasium.

MESSAGES END.