

Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

Approved by the church board on ...May 10th, 2016

- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
- We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)
- We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Cornerstone Church of The Nazarene as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the [the organization] members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by [the organization] in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)
- We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)
- We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of [the organization].

Church Facility Use Policy

Approved by the church board on ...May 10th, 2016

Purpose

- The church's facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of church members. The church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory. Although the building facilities are not generally open to the public, we make them available to approved nonmembers as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

- Building facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the church's constitution and bylaws. Nor may church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the church's faith or moral teachings. The pastor, pastoral staff or their official designee, is the final decision maker concerning use of church facilities.
 - This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons.
 - 1.) The church may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict the church's beliefs would be material cooperation with that activity, and would be a grave violation of the church's faith and religious practice. (2 Cor 6:14; 1Thess 5:22.)
 - 2.) It is very important that the church present a consistent message to the community, and that the church staff and members conscientiously maintain that message as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Allowing the buildings and grounds to be used by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the church's faith would have a severe, negative impact on the message that the church strives to promote. It could also cause confusion and scandal to church members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the church agrees with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using its facilities.

- Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church's faith expect to schedule the use of any church facility.

This policy applies to all church facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church's sanctuary, because the church sees all of its property as holy and set apart to worship God. (Col 3:17.)

**To be signed
and dated**

Approved Users and Priority of Use

Approved by the church board on ...May 10th, 2016

The pastor, pastoral staff or their official designee must approve all uses of church facilities. Generally, priority shall be given to church members, their immediate families, and organized groups that are part of the ministry, organization, or sponsored activities of the church. Church facilities and equipment will be made available to non-members or outside groups meeting the following qualifications:

1. Groups or persons requesting facility use must affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses of the facilities are consistent with the church's faith and practice.
2. The group or person seeking facility use must submit a signed "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form.
3. The group or person seeking facility use must be willing to take responsibility for the facilities and equipment used and must agree to abide by the church's rules of conduct for facility use, as stated below and as described in any additional instructions by church staff.

Facility Use Hours

Facilities are available between the hours of ____ a.m. and ____ p.m. The Disc Golf Course is available from sun-up to sun down. Use outside these hours may be approved by the pastor, pastoral staff or their official designee.

Scheduling Events

Facility use requests shall be made to the church secretary by submitting the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form. The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only when the pastor, pastoral staff or their official designee approves the use.

Fees

Use of church facilities is subject to a use and maintenance fee of \$_____ to pay for the upkeep of church facilities. Church members are not required to pay a fee for usage because maintenance of the facilities are derived from member tithes and offerings.

Facility Use Guidelines

1. Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be consumed on church property and facilities.
2. Smoking Policy: Smoking in any indoor church facilities is prohibited. No smoking is permitted within 25 ft. of any building.
3. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
4. Food and beverages in church buildings are restricted to the coffee bar and fellowship hall.
5. Church equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event.
6. All lights must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
7. Clean-Up: Facilities to be used must be cleaned up to at least the same condition they were upon entering the building, There will be a deposit of \$250.00 required that will be refunded upon inspection of facilities after its use. If so desired arrangements can be made for the cleaning service to do clean-up for a fee.
8. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited on church premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
9. Any person or group must sign the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form prior to reservation of church facilities.

Insurance

For all non-church-sponsored events, the group using the facilities must obtain liability insurance coverage in the amount of at least \$ _____. The user must also sign a "Facility Use and an Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement."

I have read, understand, will agree to abide by guidelines as set forth in this policy, and hold harmless the Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene from any and all liability...

Signed: _____ (requesting party) Date: _____

Printed: _____ (requesting party)

To be signed
and dated

Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement

Approved by the church board on ...May 10th, 2016

Name of person or organization requesting use of facilities: - _____

Please mark a check as to whether you are a:

Church Member Church-Sponsored Ministry Non -Member Non-Member
Group/Organization

Contact Information:

Name of the person filling out this form: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

If the requested use is by an organization not affiliated with the church, please briefly
state the organization's purpose and mission: _____

Please list the organization's website, if any: _____

Please list the names of the organization's office-holders and leaders:

Regardless of type of user, please describe which church facilities you are requesting use of
and the purpose for which you intend to use the facilities:

What date(s) and time(s) are you requesting to use the facilities:

If you are requesting use of the church's facilities for a wedding and/or wedding reception, please list the names and contact information of the bride and groom:

Bride:

Groom:

Please list the name, contact information, and religious affiliation of the person officiating the wedding:

Please describe the marriage preparation counseling or training undertaken by the bride and groom:

I affirm that:

1. I understand that the church does not allow its facilities to be used in a way that contradicts its faith or by persons or groups holding beliefs that contradict the church's faith.
2. To the best of my knowledge the purpose for which I am requesting use of church facilities will not contradict the church's faith, and I commit to promptly disclose any potential conflict of which I am aware or become aware to church staff.
3. I am not aware of any beliefs that are professed by me or the organization I represent and which is requesting use of the church's facilities that contradict the beliefs of the church. I agree to promptly disclose any potential conflicts in belief to church staff.
4. I understand that upon approval of my facilities use request, I will need to provide a security deposit in the amount of \$250.00 _____, a certificate of insurance for at least \$ _____ of coverage, and any other fees required by the church.
5. I understand that the church does not allow its facilities to be generally available to the public, and that my use of these facilities is subject to the pastor's approval, which is conditioned in part on my agreement to the requirements in the "Church Facility Use Policy," a copy of which I have read and understood.
6. I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities that exceeds security deposit.
7. The church believes disputes are to be worked out between parties without recourse to the courts. See, generally, Matthew Chapter 18 and 1 Corinthians Chapter 6. Accordingly, users of the facility agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.

Name

Date