

# Spring Creek Christian Church

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April 2016

## Church Facility Use Policy

### Purpose Statement

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. Our facilities are available to active members and regular attendees (3 out of 4 weeks) in good standing with consent of the board of elders 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.

Facility use will not be permitted to active members and regular attendees 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 doctrinal statements. Nor may church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the church's faith or moral teachings. The board of elders is the final decision-maker concerning use of church facilities.

This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons. First, 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; 1 Thess. 5:22.)

Second, 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 facilities to be used by active members or regular attendees 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 other 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 active member or regular attendee using its facilities.

Therefore, in no event shall active members or regular attendees who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church's faith use any church facility. Nor may church facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. 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.)

## **Approved Users and Priority of Use**

The board of elders must approve all uses of church facilities. Generally, priority shall be given on a first come-first served basis to active church members and regular attendees, and groups that are part of the ministry, organization, or sponsored activities of the church. Church facilities and equipment will not be made available to non-members, non-active members or outside groups.

## **Facility Use Hours**

Facilities are available when the facility is not being used for worship service.

## **Scheduling Events**

Facility use requests shall be made to board of elders by submitting the “Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement” form. The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only when the board of elders approves the use.

## **Fees**

Active church members and regular attendees are not required to pay a fee for usage because maintenance of the facilities is derived from member tithes and offerings. Active members and regular attendees who use the facility are expected to return it to the same or in better condition in which it was found.

## **Facility Use Guidelines**

1. Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be served in church facilities.
2. Smoking Policy: Smoking in any indoor church facilities is prohibited.
3. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
4. Food and beverages in classrooms are permitted, but food and beverages in the sanctuary is highly discouraged.
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: It is the responsibility of the group using the facility to return the facility to the same or better condition as it was found.

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 active member or regular attendee must sign the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form prior to reservation of church facilities.

## Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement

Name of person requesting use of facilities: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please state whether you are a:

Active Church Member     Regular Attendee     Church-Sponsored Ministry

### Contact Information

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 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 that contradict the beliefs of the church.
4. I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.
5. The church believes disputes are to be worked out between parties without recourse to the courts. See, generally, Matthew Chapter 18 and I Corinthians Chapter 6. Accordingly, users of the facility agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date