



Christ Presbyterian Church

Church Property and Facility Use Policy

Approved by the Session 8/20/2015

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. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-members 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.

But 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 Essentials of Faith, and the constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Nor may church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the church's faith or moral teachings. The Session 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 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 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.). The building and grounds of the church are not a public accommodation but the Session decides the use of church facilities.

Approved Users and Priority of Use

The Session 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 Church Facility Use 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.

Scheduling Events

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

Fees/Costs

Use of church facilities is subject to a use and maintenance fee as determined by your specific "Facility Use Agreement" 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. However members are encouraged to give a donation for use of facility.

Facility Use Guidelines

1. Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be served in church grounds or facilities.
2. Smoking Policy: No smoking in any indoor church facilities or around and in the presence of children.
3. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
4. Food and beverages in classrooms, worship space are allowed only with approval from session.
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, doors locked, and alarm set upon departure.
7. Clean-up will be the responsibility of each person or group using the facility. The building should be cleaned and returned to the way the building was found or better.
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 will adhere to Christ Presbyterian Church code of conduct policies as regards to children or will create policies approved by the Session.
10. Any person or group must sign the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Facility Use Agreement" form prior to reservation of church facilities.
11. Any person or group will agree to any addition conditions or policies as agreed by the Session in their signed "Facility Use Agreement"