

North Knoxville Baptist Church Facilities Use Policy

Purpose Statement

The church's facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of the 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.

However, the use of the church's facilities 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. The church facilities shall not be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the church's faith or moral teachings. The pastor, the Chairman of the Deacons, or the pastor's official designee, is the final decision-maker concerning use of the church's 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 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 and property because the church sees all of the church's property as holy and set apart to worship God. (Col. 3:17)

Approval of Facilities Use

The pastor, the Property and Space Committee, or official designee must approve all uses of church facilities. Generally, priority shall be given first and foremost to Christ Community Church, then North Knoxville Baptist Church, then to church members, then to 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 inactive members and 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 practices.
2. The group or person seeking facility use must submit a signed Facilities Reservation Request and 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.

Facility Use Hours

Facilities are available between the hours of *8:00AM and 10PM* except for church needs. Use outside these hours may be approved by the pastor, the Property and Space Committee, or official designee.

Scheduling Events

Facility use request shall be made to the church secretary by submitting the Facilities Reservation Request and Use Agreement form. The event will be reserved and placed on the shared church calendar only when the pastor, the Property and Space Committee, or official designee approves the use, provided the above criteria are met and the event is not within 48-hours of request for non-fee usage. As a policy, the church does not lend out keys nor offer alarm codes to inactive members or non-members. Use of the facility requires an active member to open and close church and provide a post-inspection of the facility for the user of the facility. The church reserves the right to have black-out dates for facility use.

Fees

Use of the church facilities are subject to a use and maintenance fee of \$50/hour with a 4-hour minimum (\$200 minimum). Church members are not required to pay a fee for usage because maintenance of the facilities is derived from member tithes and offerings. If the primary user renting the facility is an immediate family member (defined as grandparent, parent, child, or sibling) of an active church member in good standing, the use and maintenance fee is \$25/hour with a 4-hour minimum (\$100 minimum). If the church's sound equipment is to be used, it must be operated by a church sound technician. The fee for the sound technician is \$100. The use of the facility for funerals does not require a fee however the deposit and cleanup fee still apply to anyone who is not an active member in good standing. Any deposit and rental fees due must be received by the church office at least 14 days PRIOR to rental of the facilities.

Facility Use Guidelines

1. Sanctuary use: No food or drink with the exception of clear and unflavored water is permitted in the sanctuary.

2. Alcohol Policy: The serving or use of alcohol in church facilities or on church property is prohibited.
3. Smoking Policy: Smoking or Vaping in any indoor church facility is prohibited.
4. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
5. Church equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to the original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event.
6. All lights must be turned off, doors secured and locked, alarm set, and thermostats returned to standard temperature where applicable upon departure.
7. The group using the facility is responsible for restoring it to the condition in which it was found. If the group does not choose to do the clean-up, a clean-up fee of \$200 will be charged. This equals the amount of the deposit required to use the facility.
8. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol use are strictly prohibited on the church premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.

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