

Church Facility Use Policy**Statement of Purpose**

The church's facilities were provided by God through the sacrificial generosity of members and visitors to LifePoint Church. The church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and always to God's glory. Facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs, or advancing, advocating, or engaging in 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 facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed by the pastor as inconsistent with, or contrary to the church's faith or moral teachings. The pastor, or his official designee, is the final decision-maker on whether a person or group is allowed to use 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. See 2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

Second, it is very important to the church that it presents a consistent message to the community, which the church staff and members conscientiously maintain as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To allow 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 be a source of confusion and scandal to church members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the church is in agreement with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using church 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 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. See Colossians 3:17.

Approved Users and Priority of Use

The pastor or official designee must approve all uses of church facilities. Priority shall generally be given to members of the church, 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 in harmony with the church's faith and practice.

2. The group or person seeking facility use must submit a signed “Facility Request Form”, to the church office, at least two weeks prior to the event. There are separate forms for “Ministry Use” and for “Personal use”. If the event is to be promoted at LifePoint Church, a separate “Promotional Request Form” should accompany the “Facility Request 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.
4. A contract is required for any event that uses an outside vendor.
5. No organized sports teams will be allowed to use the facility for practices or games. Use of the exterior church grounds may be allowed in a designated area agreed to at time of approval.

Facility Use Hours

Facilities are available throughout the week while use is limited on weekends in order to allow for proper cleaning prior to Sunday morning worship services.

Scheduling Events

Requests for facility use may be made to the church office, by submitting the “Facility Request Form” at least two weeks prior to the event. The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only when the pastor or official designee approves the use. Non-church related events cannot be placed on the schedule more than 30 days in advance. This is done in order to give priority to church-related ministries and events.

Fees

Use of church facilities for personal events is subject to a use and maintenance fee of \$50 to pay for the upkeep of church facilities.

Conditions

1. No use or possession of alcohol, tobacco or banned substances is permitted on church property.
2. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited while using church facilities. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premise.
3. The leader must obtain a key and access code from the church. The key must be returned promptly.
4. The leader must meet with a member of the church staff prior to facility use to review opening/closing procedures and clean-up requirements.
5. Solicitations, fund raisers and flyer promotions (include car flyers) are not permitted.
6. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.

7. Food and beverages will be allowed in areas designated during the pre-event walk meeting with staff member.
8. No audio/visual equipment for personal events will be provided by the church.
9. Church equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event.
10. Any area used must be cleaned and returned to its previous condition within the scheduled time frame.
11. All lights must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
12. Any damage is the responsibility of the user and must be reported within 24 hours to the person approving the event
13. Fees may be changed as needed.

Insurance

Some facility uses by outside organizations may require a Certificate of Insurance naming LifePoint Church as the additional insured. If an event requires additional insurance, it will be placed on the schedule when the Certificate of Insurance is received by the church.

Weddings

For information regarding use of the facility for weddings, refer to the LifePoint Church Wedding Policy for more information.

Church Facility Use Affirmation

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 for 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 for any non-ministry events, I will need to provide all required fees and security deposits as well as any insurance requirements upon approval.
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.
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 through Christian mediation, and failing that to submit to binding arbitration through the American Arbitration Association, or any other mutually acceptable arbitration service.

Signature

Printed Name

Date