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Church Facility Usage and Hold Harmless Agreement

**Statement of Purpose**

The church’s facilities are 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 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 teachings, which are summarized in the statement of faith.

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.

# 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.

# Facility Use Hours

Facilities are available between the hours 8 a.m. and 8 p.m generally. Use outside these hours may be approved by the pastor or official designee upon request.

# Scheduling Events

Requests for facility use may be made to the church office, 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 or official designee approves the use. For weddings or wedding receptions, a separate wedding application must be submitted no later than 12 weeks prior to the event date.

# Fees

The church desires that its facilities be a blessing to everyone, however, for events that require serving food and using the churches paper products, or require a special clean up by church staff, a modest fee may be attached to your event prior to your events approval. This will be decided on and disclosed upfront. For large gatherings, a proof of insurance may be necessary. Speak with the pastor or official designee for special instructions.

**Facility Use Guidelines**

# Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be served in church facilities.

1. Smoking Policy: [e.g., smoking in any indoor church facilities or in the church plaza is prohibited.]
2. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
3. Food and beverages in the worship and classroom spaces are not allowed without prior authorization. Beverages in the Community Room are permitted.
4. Church equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement. This is not necessary if the facilities person is doing the set up and tear down for the event as suggested in the fee schedule above.
5. All lights must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
6. Clean-up to the original state of the space is required unless previous arrangements are made. (see wedding policy regarding decorations)
7. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol use are strictly prohibited while using church facilities. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
8. Classroom televisions are OK to use. The Sanctuary audio-video system is only available through prior arrangement and can only be operated by an approved sound technician.
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 Pastor or official Designee may require the group or person using the facilities to obtain liability insurance coverage in the amount of at least $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The user must also sign a “Facility Use and a Hold Harmless Agreement” This is required by the churches insurance policy and is not meant to discourage use of the church facility.

**Grace Community Baptist Church Statement of Faith**

The Word of God

 We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God,

 inerrant in the original writings, complete as the revelation of God’s will for salvation,

 and the supreme and final authority in all matters to which they speak.

The Trinity

We believe in one God, creator and sustainer of all things, eternally existing in three

 persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that these are equal in every divine perfection and

that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, andredemption.

God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God’s eternal Son, and has precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe further that He is not only true God, but true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal, imminent return from heaven.

Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality, and His work in regeneration, sanctification, and preservation. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and implement Christ’s work of redeeming the lost and empowering the believer for godly living and service.

Man

We believe God created man, male and female, in the image of God and free from sin. We further believe man is a sinner by nature and choice and is therefore spiritually dead. We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

Salvation

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, and was purchased by Christ on the cross, and is received by man through faith, apart from any human merit, works, or rituals. We further believe salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concern.

The Church

We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head. We believe

 that the true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ

 have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe that this body expresses itself in

 local assemblies whose members have been baptized upon credible confession of faith

 and have associated themselves for worship, for instruction, for evangelism and for

 service. We believe the ordinances of the local church are believer’s baptism by

 immersion and the Lord’s Supper. We also believe in the interdependence of local

 churches and the mutual submission of believers to each other in love.

Separation of Church and State

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function, and must be free from

 interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every

 human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life, and that each

 should be free to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience.

Christian Conduct

 We believe that the supreme task of every believer is to glorify God in his life; that his

 conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself the full stature of maturity in Christ.

We believe 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.)

Last Things

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost, the eternal existence of all men either in heaven or hell, in divine judgments, rewards, and punishments.

Conclusion

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, polity, and discipline, the Elders of Grace Community Baptist Church are the final interpretative authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

# Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement

Name of person or organization requesting use of facilities:

Please state whether you are a: ☐Church Member ☐Regular Attender ☐Church-Sponsored Ministry ☐Non-Member ☐Non-Member Group/Organization ☐Relative of Church Member

Other

Contact Name:

Information:

Address:

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: \_

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?

I affirm that:

Please initial each statement:

* 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.
* 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.
* 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.
* I understand that upon approval of my facilities use request, I will need to pay the fees in the amount of $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, an/or provide a certificate of insurance for at least $ of coverage as requested by the pastor or official designee.
* 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.
* I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.
* 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. If this is insufficient both parties will agree to submit to binding arbitration through the American Arbitration Association, or any other mutually acceptable arbitration service.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

***Office use only***

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Response to Applicant: □ Yes □ No