



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GARNER
601 St. Mary's St. Garner, NC 27529

CHURCH FACILITY USE POLICY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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 always to God's glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-profit and governmental groups 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, 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 governmental and non-profit 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 "Building Usage 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.

INSURANCE

For all non-church-sponsored events, the group or person using the facilities must obtain liability insurance coverage in an amount disclosed in the "Building Usage Request Form." The user must also sign a "Facility Use and an Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement."

FACILITY USE GUIDELINES

1. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
2. Food and beverage use will be restricted based upon those areas of the facility that group has reserved.
3. If event is being catered, approval is required through staff/kitchen liaison. Event planner must submit a Caterer Agreement Form along with proof of insurance. **The kitchen is NOT available for use for any reason other than obtaining cleaning supplies unless obtaining prior approval of church staff.**
4. The individual or group using the facility is responsible for cleaning (including restrooms), set-up and breakdown of tables and chairs to their proper place. Cleaning supplies/equipment are available to ensure facility is left clean. Garbage must be bagged and placed in the garbage dumpster on campus.
5. All lights must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
6. All music played or performed and sound equipment must be approved in advance by audio committee/staff.
7. Groups must request and receive approval for providing childcare during their event. If the request is approved, any adult supervising children, other than the child's parent or legal guardian, must pass a criminal background screening. Proof of background checks must be provided to the church office, or a background check may be obtained through FBC Garner for a fee that is disclosed on the "Building Usage Request Form."
8. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior and drug, tobacco, smoking device or alcohol use are strictly prohibited while using church facilities. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises immediately.
9. Any person or group must sign the "Building Usage Request Form" prior to reservation of church facilities.
10. Failure to meet these terms may forfeit the security deposit.