

Southeast Christian Church

Facility Use Policy

Purpose Statement

Our Church's facilities and real estate (sometimes referred to hereafter collectively as "facilities" and "facility") were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of our 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 available for use by groups other than ministries of the Church, we make our facilities available to other approved 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, we do not permit our facilities to be used by 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 Statement of Faith which is located in the Church bylaws and attached to this Policy. Nor may Church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the Church's faith or moral teachings. The Board of Elders of the Church 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 statement of faith, use any Church facility. Nor may Church facilities be used in any way that contradicts the Church's statement of 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).

Guidelines for Facility Use.

1. Decision-making authority. The Church's Leadership Team ("Lead Team") under the guidance of the Elders shall make decisions as needed regarding the use of the Church's facilities, all in the best interests of the Church.

2. Doctrinal Restrictions. The Church's facilities may be used only for purposes and in ways consistent with the Church's doctrinal beliefs as reflected in the Bible, the Church's Statement of Faith as stated in its Bylaws and attached to this Policy, and otherwise, particularly with respect to sexual activity standards and other conduct. No alcohol may be served on Church property. The Church Lead Team under the guidance of

the Elders shall be the final decision-maker regarding whether any use is in conformity with, or contrary to, the Church's religious doctrine.

3. The Church may accept donations for use of its facilities and may request cost-sharing contributions ("fees") in order to defray the estimated cost of facility use. No such fees shall be charged with any impermissible view to profit, and any and all fees are subject to waiver or reduction based on the prospective user's financial condition.

4. The Church's legal counsel shall be responsible for preparing a contract for guest facility use. Such written agreements shall include incorporation by reference to this Policy.

5. Insurance coverage shall be maintained for all uses of the Church's facilities, including certificates of coverage from guest users as appropriate.

6. The Church's First Impressions Ministry shall be responsible for communicating these requirements and other guidelines to all prospective guests of the Church facilities.

Attachments: Statement of Faith

Use of Southeast Christian Church Facilities

Revision: October 15, 2015

Southeast Christian Church

Statement of Faith

We believe...

We believe in one God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (John 14:9-20; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 5:1-12)

We believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of all things visible and invisible. (Genesis 1:1; Matthew 5:16, 45; 6:1, 4, 8, 9; Acts 17:24-28; Hebrews 11:3; James 1:17)

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the eternal Word, the one and only Savior. (John 1:1, 14, 29; 3:16; Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 1:15-19; 1 John 4:9)

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, both fully human and fully divine; Who lived a sinless life; Who suffered and was crucified as an atonement for sin; Who rose again bodily from the dead on the third day; Who ascended into Heaven; and Who will return in victory to rule forever. (Luke 1:26-35; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 5:15-17; Luke 22:47-24:53; John 20:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Acts 1:1-9; Colossians 3:1; Revelation 1:7-8; 11:15)

We believe in the Holy Spirit

Who convicts of sin; Who indwells every Christian; Who helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us in prayer; and Who empowers us to a fruitful Christian life. (John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:14; Romans 8:26; Galatians 5:22-23)

We believe in the Bible—God’s Holy Word, Scripture.

We believe God inspired the original writings of the Scripture and those original writings were consequently without error. (Mark 12:36; John 14:26; 16:12-15; Acts 1:16; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

We believe that the Bible is the final authority for all matters of faith, truth, morality, and Christian living. (Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 119:11, 105; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; Romans 15:4)

We believe the Bible teaches that God is the Creator and Sustainer of human life; that God creates each person in His image; and that life is therefore sacred, from conception to natural death. We believe that God creates each person as male or female; that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the “image of God” in humankind; and that each person’s biological gender is an intrinsic, immutable aspect of his or her nature and identity. (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7, 21-22; Psalm 139:13-18)

We believe the Bible teaches that God established marriage in the beginning as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman; that he has reserved sexual intimacy as an expression of love and commitment between married couples; and that any intimate expression of sexuality outside of Biblical marriage is sin. (Genesis 2:23-25; Exodus 20:14, 17, 22:19; Leviticus 18:1-20, 22-23; 20:11-21; Matthew 19:4-6, 9; Romans 1:18-31; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Jude 7)

We believe in the Gospel – the Good News of Salvation

That man, created by God, willfully sinned against God and is consequently lost and without hope apart from Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 53:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23)

That salvation—the forgiveness of sins—is only by grace through the blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7)

That one receives salvation by putting faith in Christ, repenting of sin, and confessing Christ, and that the Bible commands every believer in Christ to be baptized by immersion. (Romans 5:1-2; 10:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 2:38, 3:19; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21)

That those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ are sent into the world to proclaim the gospel and to love and serve the world just as Jesus Himself did. (2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21)

We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, founded on the Day of Pentecost, consisting of all Christians everywhere, and organized into local assemblies, called churches (Matthew 16:13-18; Acts 2:14-47).

We believe the Bible teaches that every Christian should be an active member of a local church. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

We believe that the Elders of the church are the overseers of its affairs and the shepherds of its members; that they are the final interpretive authority of the Bible's meaning and application for the church; and that they are responsible for the oversight, instruction, edification, discipline, and restoration of church members. (1 Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:9, 2:1-15; Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13)

We believe that the Bible instructs church members to:

Meet together regularly for fellowship, worship, teaching, and the Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Use our natural abilities and spiritual gifts to serve one another (Romans 12, 1 Peter 4:10, Galatians 5:13, 1 Corinthians 12:7)

Love one another, bear with one another, accept one another, and forgive one another (John 13:34-35; John 15:17, 1 John 4:7, 11; Romans 13:8; Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:14, Romans 15:7)

Seek unity, agreement, and peace with one another (Romans 12:16, 18; 1 Thessalonians 5:13; Philippians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:11)

Encourage and build up one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Bear one another's burdens and pray for one another (Galatians 6:2; James 5:16)

Spur one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)

Submit to the authority of the elders of the church (Hebrews 13:17)

Support the church financially (2 Corinthians 8:7, Malachi 3:10, 1 Timothy 5:17-18)

Pursue personal holiness and obedience to God's Word (2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:7, 1 Peter 1:15)

Strive together to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

Use of Southeast Christian Church Facilities

1. Blankenbaker Campus Sanctuary events must be ticketed with reserved seating if over 2,500 paying attendees are expected.
2. Ticket sales for Church sponsored events may only take place online or designated areas determined by each campus; provided, however the Sanctuary and areas close to the Sanctuary are off limits for sales of any kind.
3. Any special use requests for a Welcome Center or Atrium Booth Space presence, as well as special signage, displays and the like must be approved in writing in advance by the following ministries:
 - a. Blankenbaker: Campus Pastor & Events
 - b. All Other Campuses: First Impressions Coordinator at respective campus
4. Solicitations, fund-raisers, and flyer promotions (including car flyers) are not permitted at the Church Premises. Due to the volume of requests, birthday parties, wedding showers, and baby showers cannot be accommodated, except for those allowed for full-time staff and approved by the Advance Team. For staff personal celebrations, no external vendors aside from caterers may be used. All other personal celebrations may be submitted for approval to the Advance Team. A “love offering” for any event must be approved in writing in advance by the Board of Elders.
5. No alcohol or illicit drugs are allowed at the Church Premises.
6. No dancing with the exception of Shine (Prom for individuals with special needs) on the Church Premises.
7. Second Party will pay no cash or other gratuities to employees of the Church.
8. Plans, diagrams and layout for the Event set-up must be provided to the Church no later than 30 days prior to the Commencement Date. Preset rooms cannot be reset with different furnishings. No action may be taken which would obstruct access to any exit on the Church Premises. All decorations and set-up must conform to existing laws, ordinances, and regulations of all governmental authorities, including but not limited to the local fire department.
9. No “Play Doh” like substance, glitter, straw, hay, bird seed, rice, sand, confetti, bubbles, sparklers, and latex balloons are allowed anywhere on the Church Premises. (Exception: Latex Balloons may be used outdoors as long as Second Party uses prominent signage to alert people of the allergy risk. Mylar balloons may be permitted in certain areas upon request.) Candles must be contained in hurricane or similar containers and may not be lit out in the open.
10. Waffle irons and griddles are not permitted for use inside the Church Premises. Crock-pots are permitted anywhere on the Premises with prior written or verbal consent of the Events staff at Blankenbaker or Support staff at each individual campus. No red food coloring of any kind (e.g., icing, sherbet, fruit juice, soft drinks, etc.) is allowed inside the Church Premises.
11. The Church Cafés are not bookable as event venues.
12. No items outside of Café product may be sold in the Church Cafes. No outside food or drink items may be stored with Café product.

Revision – August 25, 2022