

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

CHURCH FACILITY USE POLICY

For the purposes of this policy, the terms “church” and “church-related” are limited exclusively to activities and properties of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Elkin, NC

Purpose Statement

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

But facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the church’s Statement of Faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the church’s constitution and bylaws. Nor may church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the church’s faith or moral teachings. The Pastor, or Deacons, will be the final decision-maker concerning use of church facilities.

This restricted facility 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 Statement of 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 Statement of 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)

Approved Users and Priority of Use

The Pastor or Deacons must approve all uses of church facilities. Generally, priority shall be given to church members, 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 facilities are consistent with the church’s Statement of Faith and practice.
2. The group or person seeking facility use must submit a signed “Church Facility Reservation Request and 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 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Use outside these hours may be approved by the Pastor or Deacons.

Scheduling Events

Facility use requests shall be made to the Church Office during regular business hours 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 Deacons have approved the use.

Fees

Use of church facilities for non-church related activities will be subject to a use and maintenance fee of \$30.00 per day to pay for the upkeep of church facilities. Fees must be paid prior to the event. Church members are not required to pay a fee for church related activities. (Church related activities include ministries of the church, events/classes for the benefit of the church membership and/or staff, and events held by the Baptist State Convention and/or Elkin Baptist Association.) Fees are also waived for a church member’s first wedding, first bridal shower, and first baby shower.

Facility Use Guidelines

1. Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be served in church facilities or on church property
2. Smoking Policy: Smoking in any indoor church facility is prohibited.
3. Service Animals: Registered Service Animals will be allowed; all other pets are prohibited
4. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
5. Food and beverages are not allowed in the sanctuary.
6. Church equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event.
7. All lights must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
8. Clean-up will be the responsibility of the person or persons that signed the “Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement” form. The Building Superintendent will inspect the facility after an event to ensure that it is cleaned properly.
9. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol use are strictly prohibited on church premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
10. Any person or group must sign the “Building Use Waiver and Release” form prior to reservation of church facilities. Any person or persons representing a group that signs the Reservation Request and Agreement form must also be present/on-site during the approved rental time.

Insurance

The group or person using the facilities who are not church members must obtain liability insurance coverage in the amount of at least \$100,000. The certificate of insurance must be presented to the church office during regular business hours prior to the event. The user must also sign the “Building Use Waiver and Release.” The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only after these forms have been submitted to the church office.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1: General

We follow the guidelines of “The Baptist Faith and Message” adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention 2000 which includes belief in the following:

- * The Trinity of God
- * Verbal, Plenary inspiration of the Bible
- * Total Depravity of Natural Man
- * The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ
- * Blood Atonement by Christ’s Blood
- * Christ’s Bodily Resurrection
- * Pre-Millennial Coming of Christ
- * Person and work of the Holy Spirit
- * Eternal Security of the Believer
- * Separation of Church and State
- * The Autonomy of the Local Church
- * Worldwide Missions (the obligation of PHBC)
- * Personality of Satan
- * Justification by Faith
- * The Reality of Heaven and Hell
- * The Priesthood of the Believer
- * Two ordinances only: Baptism by Immersion and the Lord’s Supper

Section 2: Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that 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 and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins 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 only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:25; Hebrews 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, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all person employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; Thess. 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Church Facility Reservation Request

Completion of this form does not guarantee approval

This portion to be completed by Church Office Staff

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Approved? Y N *Signed* _____ *Date* _____

Amount Due: \$ _____ **Date Paid:** _____

Name of person or organization requesting use of facilities: _____

Please state whether you are a:

- Church Member Non-Member Non-Member Group/Organization

Contact Information:

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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, if any: _____

Please list the names of the organization's office-holders and leaders: _____

Regardless of type of user, 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: _____

If you are requesting use of the church's facilities for a wedding and/or wedding reception, please fill out this section.

Bride:

Groom:

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Email _____

Please list the name, contact information, and religious affiliation of the person officiating the wedding:

Please describe the marriage preparation counseling or training undertaken by the bride and groom:

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Church Facility Reservation Agreement

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 contradicts 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 properly disclose any potential conflict of which I am aware or become aware to the 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 upon approval of my facilities use request, I will need to provide a usage fee in the amount of \$30.00, a certificate or insurance for at least \$100,000.00 of coverage, and any other fees required by the church.
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 Pastor or Deacon 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. I understand that the church must receive the facilities in the same condition that it was received at the time of rental or it will result in future non-rentals.
8. 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 of any disputes through Christian mediation.
9. By signing this form I, the undersigned, will be present/onsite during the rental time requested.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Building Use Waiver and Release

I enter into this Building Use Waiver Release (Agreement) with Pleasant Hill Baptist Church for the privilege to use the facility located at _____ Elkin, NC.

1. Waiver and release of all claims (including negligence)

In consideration for use of the facility, I waive and release Pleasant Hill Baptist Church its agents, servants, employees, insurers, successors and assigns from all claims, demands, causes of action, damages or suits at law and equity of whatsoever kind, including but not limited to claims for personal injury, property damage, medical expenses, loss of services, on account of or in any way related to or growing out of my presence at the facility or use of the facility and/or equipment. **This waiver and release is intended to and does release Pleasant Hill Baptist Church from any and all liability for damages or injuries on account of or in any way related to or growing out of my negligence, the negligence of third parties and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's negligence, including but not limited to negligence in the construction, maintenance and upkeep of the facility and its equipment, negligence in training or negligence in supervision. This is not intended to release Pleasant Hill Baptist Church from any liability resulting from their intentional conduct.**

I further covenant and agree not to institute any claims or legal action against Pleasant Hill Baptist Church for any claim released by this Agreement. I further agree that should any claim be made against Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in contravention of this Agreement, including but not limited to derivative claims, I will protect, defend and completely indemnify (reimburse) Pleasant Hill Baptist Church for any such claim and expenses including attorney's fees and costs incurred by Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in defending themselves or security indemnity hereunder.

I recognize the facility is not supervised, and I use the facility (including premises and equipment) entirely at my own risk.

2. I understand that Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables or property from within the facility.

3. While at the facility, I agree to conduct myself in a responsible manner and will refrain from engaging in inappropriate conduct, including the use of loud, foul, slanderous language or any intimidating or offensive conduct that would interfere with the peaceful use and enjoyment of the facility by other users.

4. I acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of the current rules and regulations governing the use of the facility. I agree that I will fully comply with all rules and regulations and with any amendments.

I have read the Agreement and understand that by signing the Agreement I have consented to be bound by its terms, including the waiver/release of any legal right I may have to sue Pleasant Hill Baptist Church for any costs they incur because a claim or legal action is brought in violation of this Agreement. I agree any violation of the Agreement and its terms and conditions, as determined by Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, will void and terminate this Agreement and may result in loss of the ability to use the facility.

Name of Organization (if applicable) _____

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____