

Geist Community Church Property Use Policy and Agreement

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

All real property and personal property of Geist Community Church (the building, everything in it and all other property owned by it, regardless of location) are holy and set apart to worship God (Colossians 3:17). The property of the church is committed and dedicated to our religious ministry and mission because it all is provided by God. Use of any property shall be for the propagation of the Christian faith, for fellowship, witnessing, religious teaching, charity and consistent with our understanding of Biblical mandates for bringing glory to God. Therefore, all use and occupancy of property shall be limited to persons who agree with and support this ministry and mission.

All activities with and use of church property must confirm with this stated purpose whether the activity has an overt liturgical religious purpose (preaching, worship services, Bible instruction, communion, baptism, etc.) or a non-liturgical religious purpose (social service, weddings, community service, mentorship, benevolence, charity, schools, etc.). All activities on the property and all activities or persons using the property are exclusively conditioned on whether the use promotes Geist Community Church's ministry, mission, message and viewpoint, as all property use is an opportunity to glorify God.

The use of property is reserved for persons and organizations who agree to abide by the church's policies, procedures and beliefs including, but not limited to, our facility use policies, child protection policies, statements of faith, Biblical moral teachings, and our constitution, which are incorporated by reference. As a result, church property is not open to the public and not available for use by the public. Property may not be used by persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs that conflict with Geist Community Church.

In the event property is made available to the public or non-member of Geist Community Church, such availability or use is intended to further the church's calling to minister to others, in the vein of charity and witnessing to our faith. For this reason, no property may be used in violation of Geist Community Church's Biblical beliefs, mission or ministry, or degrade the church's religious integrity. (II Corinthians 6:3; and 14; I Thessalonians 5:22.)

AUTHORITY

Geist Community Church seeks to avoid member confusion, formal or material cooperation with evil, and scandal by associating with any conduct that contradicts its religious beliefs. (1 Peter 2:12.). Church property issues or disputes are directly related to religious doctrine and practice, as all facilities are utilized in a manner to advance or express the church's mission, ministry, message, and to bring glory to God. (Colossians 3:17). The church's elders possess the exclusive power to determine and enforce conformity of belief and to determine if property use is consistent with the ministry and mission of Geist Community Church. In the event that church property use departs in any way from Geist Community Church's doctrine or beliefs, as determined by the church elders, statements of faith, teaching, constitution or policies, the elders have the exclusive right and authority to resolve any disputes.

GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

Each individual, group, or organization utilizing Geist Community Church's property is required to abide by all church guidelines, requirements and use restrictions at all times. Each individual, group, or organization is required to sign Geist's property use agreement; this requirement may be waived for members of the church. Church facilities are to be used with care and left in good, clean condition.

Geist Community Church reserves the right to accept or deny any applicants who seek to utilize the property. Permission granted to use church property cannot be transferred or passed to any other individual, group, or organization without permission.

DAMAGE AND INDEMNITY

All who use church property agree to release and indemnify Geist Community Church and its employees, members, agents and elders/pastors from any claim or damage, including reasonable attorney's fees, directly or indirectly arising out of their use of the church property.

Any and all damage occurring to church property shall be repaired, or the repairs reimbursed, replaced or compensation paid for the loss by the user. The cost will be determined by the elders.

Miscellaneous

1. Smoking, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and firearms are not permitted in the building or on church property. If a copy of a firearm carry permit from a member is provided to one of the pastors, a firearm may be carried on the property if permission is granted by a pastor.
2. A Geist Community Church activity is any function that is part of the ministry of the church; church ministries will have priority in scheduling. Reservations to members, regular attenders, and others will be made on a "first-come, first-served" basis but will have priority over other use requests. "Regular attenders" are considered to be those who have consistently attended the church for nine or more months. Agencies supported wholly or partially by donations budgeted by Geist Community Church will also be given priority.
3. All other requests for facilities will be considered by church leadership, the elders or pastors.
4. Fees for property use may be assessed and paid prior to use.
5. Because of uncertainties (particularly funerals) reservations for property use cannot be guaranteed, although every effort will be made to do so. In the circumstance a reservation cannot be honored, all monies will be returned.
6. No items on the stage may be moved unless permission is given.
7. Recitals: All recitals must have the program cleared through a Geist Community Church pastor.
8. Beverages: Events serving beverages are asked to serve clear or light colored liquids only.
9. Kitchen: Kitchen items may be used with advance request and separate, additional permission from the pastors.

10. Cleaning: All persons using the property are expected to clean up. No trash is to be left behind. For inside events, vacuums are available if needed. Tables and chairs are to be placed as they were found. You may request to hire one of the church custodians to clean up after your event; please see the suggested donation below.
11. Fees/representative: Except for weddings (see the separate wedding policy), all non-church activities and non-members or regular attenders using the building must have a church representative (selected at the church's discretion) present. A \$100 donation is requested for the representative (which may be waived if the property use is for a community function); this fee may increase occasionally at the sole discretion of the elders. If a request for property use is approved, a refundable deposit of \$150 is required to secure the reservation (which may be waived if the property use is for a community function). If the facility is left in clean and proper order, the deposit will be mailed back to the address provided. The suggested donation for the event and deposit is required at least two weeks prior to the event. A separate and additional donation of \$100 is required if a sound technician is requested or a custodian is requested.
12. Agreement: The conditions above and notice of fees are agreed upon by signature below.

APPLICATION

Geist Community Church's members, regular attenders, employees and volunteers must affirm and adhere to this policy. This is necessary to accomplish the church's religious mission, goals and purpose. Non-members who request to use the property must formally acknowledge receipt and review of this policy. Further, non-members must agree to conduct themselves and their event in a manner consistent with the Geist Community Church's beliefs, as noted above, and if the use is for a wedding, adhere to the fees and schedule provided in the wedding guide.

AGREEMENT

I have reviewed the above policy and understand it. I agree to all provisions. The requested use does not conflict with the church's faith, moral teachings, Biblical interpretation, purpose, constitution, ministry, or written statements of faith and policies, as set forth above. I acknowledge the use shall remain in force only for the term in which I comply with all church policies. I understand that all property use automatically terminates if I engage in any conduct that is contrary to the purposes stated above or as determined by the elders. I agree to notify Geist Community Church immediately upon the knowledge that church property is being utilized in a manner inconsistent with church policies. I submit to the designated authority of the church and its elders to resolve any dispute relating to the use of church property.

Signature(s)/Title(s)

Today's Date

For office use: Date received: _____	Deposit received: _____
Approved by Pastor: _____	Date: _____
Final donation received: _____	Deposit returned: _____