



Lawton First Assembly of God Facility Use Policy

Purpose

Lawton First Assembly of God Church (“Church”) adopts this Facility Use Policy in order to inform interested parties as to who may use the Church’s Facilities (“Facilities”).

The Church’s Facilities were provided through the sacrificial generosity of Church members, present and past. As such, the Church desires that its Facilities be used in a manner consistent with the Church’s doctrine and practice. While the Facilities are not generally open to the public, the Facilities may be made available to nonmembers for activities that do not contradict the Church’s doctrine and practice.

The Church does not allow use of its Facilities by persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the Church’s historic faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the Church’s Constitution and Bylaws and the Statement of Fundamental Truths as adopted and revised from time to time by the General Council of the Assemblies of God (see www.ag.org).

The Church’s Executive Pastoral Staff is the final arbiter of whether a person or group advocates beliefs or practices in conflict with the Church’s moral teachings.

The Church’s 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 and doctrine. 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 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 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 proclaims.

Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who, in the sole opinion of the Church, actively advance or advocate beliefs or practices that contradict the Church's faith or moral teachings will be allowed to use any Church Facilities. Nor may Church Facilities be used in any way that contradicts the Church's faith or doctrine. 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. (Colossians 3:17)

Approved Users

Church Facilities may only be reserved for use by Church members, churches and ministries of like faith and practice, and outside groups that the Church determines do not violate the Church's Statement of Faith.

The Church Executive Pastoral Staff, or their designee, 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 nonmembers or outside groups that meet the following qualifications:

1. Groups or persons requesting Facilities use must affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses of the Facilities do not violate the Church's Statement of Faith and practice.
2. Persons or groups seeking Facilities use must submit a signed Facility Use Request and Agreement Form.
3. Persons or groups seeking Facilities 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 and Facility Use Guidelines as stated below and as described in any additional instructions by Church staff.

Scheduling Events

Facilities use requests shall be made to the Church by submitting the Facility Use Request and Agreement Form. The event will be reserved and placed on the Church calendar only when the Executive Pastoral Staff or their designee approves the use.

Facility Use Guidelines

1. No alcohol may be served in Church Facilities.
2. No use of any tobacco or marijuana products or smoking of any substance (including vaping) is permitted on Church premises.

3. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the Facilities that the group has reserved.
4. Church equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event.
5. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and illicit drug or alcohol use/abuse are strictly prohibited on Church premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to immediately leave the premises.
6. Any person or group must sign the Church Facility Use Request and Agreement Form prior to reservation of Church Facilities.
7. The LFA Executive Pastoral Staff has the discretion to grant any requested variances to this policy as it seems fit in the best interest of the Church as long as any such variances remain consistent with the mission and purpose of the Church.

Approved & adopted by vote of the Board of Lawton First Assembly on the 13th day of February 2019.

By: 
Board Secretary