

Facility Use Policy

Purpose Statement

The facilities known as The Land Retreat & Conference Center, which is owned and operated as a non-profit 501© (3) religious organization by Cobb Mission, Inc. dba Christian Outreach Ministries, were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of many members of the Body of Christ. Christian Outreach Ministries desire 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 hospitality 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 practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the organization's constitution and bylaws. Nor may facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the church's faith or moral teachings. The CEO or the official designee, is the final decision-maker concerning use of The Land Retreat & Conference Center 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 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 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 members of the Body of Christ 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 faith use any facility owned and operated by Christian Outreach Ministries. Nor may facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. This policy applies to all facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the Sanctuary/Assembly Hall, because all of the property is holy and set apart to worship God. (Colossians 3:17)

Approved Users and Priority of Use

The CEO or official designee must approve all uses of facilities. Generally, priority shall be given to members, their immediate families, and organized groups that are part of the ministry, organization, or sponsored activities of the 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 the facilities are consistent with the church's faith and practice.
2. The group or person seeking facility use must submit signed "Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" forms. (Insurance Certificate when necessary.)
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 staff.

Scheduling Events

Facility use requests shall be made to The Land Retreat & Conference Center Reservations by submitting the "Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form. The event will be reserved and placed on the calendar only when the CEO or official designee approves use and all DEPOSITS are satisfied as related to the facility requested. (Note: This process is subject to change once the Reservations are conducted online through the website.)

Schedule of Fees

A schedule of fees for various facilities available for events will be provided by the Reservations staff along with additional instructions specific to the use of each facility requested. A non-refundable CANCELLATION DEPOSIT is required to CONFIRM all acceptable Reservation Requests. All fees are for the upkeep and maintenance of the property and remain well below the market rates. In specific instances additional Cleaning Fees may be required as well as a Security/Damage Deposit. This is to be decided on a case by case basis. (The Cleaning Fees will become automatic once the website is launched.)

Facility Use Guidelines

1. Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be served in or on the facilities owned and operated by Christian Outreach Ministries.
 2. Smoking Policy: No smoking inside facilities.
 3. Groups are restricted to those areas of the facilities designated as per the reservation.
 4. Food and beverages not allowed in Sanctuary/Assembly Hall. (Water is permitted.)
 5. Equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement.
 6. All lights must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
 7. Clean up: All garbage must be bagged, sealed and taken to the DUMPSTER daily. Cleaning supplies with instructions are provided, however CLEANING FEES will be charged if the group decides not to clean up OR if the facility is left UNCLEAN. A schedule of Cleaning Fees is provided each group. (A website reservation includes the Cleaning Fees along with the DEPOSIT.)
 8. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited on church premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
 9. Any person or group must sign the "Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" forms prior to reservation of facilities.
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