

PINE GROVE CHURCH FACILITY USE



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CONTENT PRODUCED BY:
PINE GROVE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE
CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL OVERSEER

APPROVED BY:
MEMBERS OF THE
PINE GROVE CHURCH IN CONFERENCE

WITH ASSISTANCE BY:
THE ALLIANCE FOR DEFENDING FREEDOM

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INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

The Church of God of Prophecy has been established in over 134 nations of the world. Today, over 12,000 facilities serve as houses of worship, fellowship, ministry and outreach for more than 1.5 million members around the world. More information can be found at our global website—www.cogop.org.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES, BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Below you will find both broad statements concerning the beliefs of the Church of God of Prophecy, as well as more focused statements concerning issues relevant to our current cultural climate.

Important Bible Truths

From its beginnings, the Church of God of Prophecy has based its beliefs on “the whole Bible rightly divided.” We accept the Bible as God’s Holy Word—inspired, inerrant and infallible. We believe the Bible to be God’s written revelation of Himself to mankind and our guide in all matters of faith; therefore, we look to the Bible as our highest authority for doctrine, practice, organization and discipline.

The Church of God of Prophecy is firm in its commitment to orthodox Christian belief.

- We affirm that there is one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, the physical miracles He performed, His atoning death upon the Cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father and His personal return in power and glory at His second coming.
- We profess that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential for the salvation of sinful mankind.
- We believe the sinner is brought to an awareness of the need for salvation through the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that one is made holy through sanctification by the blood of Christ.
- We affirm the present, active ministry of the Holy Spirit who guides the Church and by whose indwelling and empowerment we are able to live godly lives and render effective service to God and others.
- We believe in the oneness and ultimate unity of believers for which our Lord prayed and that this should be visibly displayed “that the world may know, see, and believe” God’s glory, the coming of His Son, and the great love He has for His people (John 17:20–23).
- We are committed to the sanctity of the marriage bond and the importance of strong, loving Christian families.
- The Church embraces all biblical doctrines as taught in the New Testament and are outlined in the church’s Biblical Principles, Beliefs and Practices.¹

¹ See: *Biblical Principles, Beliefs, and Practices* Booklet

Statement on Marriage, Sexuality, and Human Life

The Church of God of Prophecy affirms the biblical teaching that marriage is sacred and should not be entered into nonchalantly without proper preparation. Marriage was originally instituted by God as a properly recognized covenant relationship between one man and one woman for life. The Church affirms the biblical family as a father and mother in wedlock who may procreate children. The Church further asserts that the home, including the extended family, is to be guided by love, discipline and other nurturing aspects as taught in God's Word.

Because the Church is committed to the sanctity of marriage and human life, we diligently stand against abortion, incest, abuse, euthanasia, adultery, divorce, homosexuality and lesbianism. We believe these acts are contrary to God's original design as expressed in His Word. The Church renounces all biblically unlawful unions such as same-sex, incestuous or polygamous marriages; even if they are recognized as legal by civil governments.

Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect and value all human life (Psalm 139).

Final Authority for Matters of Faith and Conduct

The International Assembly, a meeting open to all members of the Church of God of Prophecy, is the highest decision-making body for all churches of the Church of God of Prophecy. It serves as an interpretative and decision-making body that deals with pressing universal truths requiring definitive decisions for trans-local matters in expediting the proclamation of the Gospel (Acts 1:21–23; Ephesians 2:13–16, 19, 20; Acts 15:6–9).

It is the place at which members of the Church and their official representatives assemble together under the headship of Christ to search the Scriptures. This body prays for the Spirit to illuminate the Bible so that understanding and resolution of interpretational differences can be discerned; thus bringing unity within the global church body. The International Assembly accepts the Bible as its highest authority.

PINE GROVE CHURCH FACILITY USE POLICY

Purpose Statement

The facilities of the Pine Grove Church of God of Prophecy, also referred to as Pine Grove Church, were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of our church members. We desire that our facilities be used for the fellowship of the body of Christ and to bring God glory. Although our 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.

However, use of Pine Grove Church's facilities 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. 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 pastor's official designee, 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 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 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 faith use any church facility. Nor may church facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's 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).

Facility Use Hours

Facilities are available between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. Use outside these hours may be approved by the Senior Pastor or official designee.

Scheduling Events

Facility use requests shall be made to the Senior Pastor or official designee by submitting the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form. The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only when the Senior Pastor or official designee approves the use.

Fees

Use of our church facilities is subject to a cleaning deposit of \$100 to reserve any section of our facility. This fee applies to both members and non-members alike.

Insurance

For all non-church-sponsored events, the group or person using the facilities must obtain liability insurance coverage in the amount of at least \$2,500. The user must also agree to the "Facility Use Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement." Those who are active church members are exempt from obtaining liability insurance. However, they will still be required to agree to the "Facility Use Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement."

Approved Users and Priority of Use

The Senior Pastor or official 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 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 a signed "Pine Grove 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 Guidelines

- Usage—A checklist, see below, will be provided prior to the event with a walk thru being conducted prior to and following the event. The Senior Pastor, Church Host, Kitchen Facilitator or someone else designated by the Senior Pastor will conduct the walk thru. Both walks thru must be completed in order to receive a deposit refund.
 - Area Swept
 - Area Mopped if applicable
 - Pews, tables and chairs to be cleaned
 - Tables and chairs set back up as they were prior to the event. We recommend taking a picture prior to moving them so that it will be easier to remember how to set them up properly.
 - Garbage to be bagged and removed from premises by users.
 - Bathrooms to be cleaned.
 - Countertops to be wiped down and everything put in its proper place.
 - Yard and parking lot to be freed of garbage that may have come from the event.
- Alcohol—No alcohol may be served in church facilities or consumed on church properties.
- Smoking—Smoking in any indoor church facilities is strictly prohibited.
- Food and Beverage—Food and beverages in classrooms and worship spaces are not allowed without a securable lid.
- Behavior—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 immediately.
- Sound System—Should one want to utilize our sound system, this request must be made when the facility is reserved. No unauthorized use of equipment is permitted.
- Supplies—If the event is for a church member, the church will offer the use of church supplies. However the church supplies would not be made available for an event conducted by a non-church member.
- All lights must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
- Any person or group must sign the "Pine Grove Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form prior to reservation of church facilities.

PINE GROVE CHURCH FACILITY RESERVATION REQUEST AND AGREEMENT

Contact information of person or organization requesting use of facilities:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please state whether you are a:

Church Member

Church-Sponsored Ministry

Non-Member

Non-Member Group/Organization

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 (if applicable):

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 list the names and contact information of the bride and groom:

Bride:

Groom:

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:

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 contradict 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 promptly disclose any potential conflict of which I am aware or become aware to church staff.
3. I am not aware of any beliefs that are professed by myself or the organization I represent that is requesting use of the church's facilities which 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 security deposit in the amount of \$100, a certificate of insurance for at least \$2,500 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 the Senior Pastor's 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. The church believes disputes are to be worked out between parties without recourse to the courts. See, generally, Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 6. Accordingly, users of the facility agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.

FACILITY USE INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT:

_____ agrees to the following.

1. The facilities will be used according to the policies of the Pine Grove Church of God of Prophecy as set forth in the Biblical Principles, Beliefs and Practices and the International Church Policy Manual.
2. _____ will be responsible for the conduct of those coming to or participating in the activity for which the facilities are reserved and will be used.
3. _____ will be responsible for any damage beyond normal wear and tear that may occur as a result of the activity or their use of the facilities.
4. _____ will indemnify and hold harmless Pine Grove Church of God of Prophecy from all liability and each demand, cause of action, loss, cost, damage and expense (including without limitation mediation fees, reasonable attorney fees and costs of litigation) incurred by Pine Grove Church of God of Prophecy from a default or any other action by _____, in connection with, or growing out of, this Agreement or _____'s use of the facilities.

NAME

DATE

Organization (where applicable)