

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
An Assemblies of God Congregation
600 S. Water Street
Salem, Missouri 65560
(573) 729-4573

Policy ~ Use of Church Facilities

Statement of Purpose

Grace Community Church (GCC) facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of church members. GCC desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and always to God's glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-member persons and groups 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, facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs, or advancing, advocating, or engaging in practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the church's Constitution and Bylaws and the Assemblies of God positional papers. Nor may facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed by the pastor as inconsistent with, or contrary to the church's faith or moral teachings. The pastor, or his official designee, is the final decision-maker on whether a person or group is allowed to use church facilities. This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons.

First, GCC 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. (See 2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:22.)

Second, it is very important to GCC that it presents a consistent message to the community, which the church staff and members conscientiously maintain as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To allow 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 be a source of confusion to GCC members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the church is in agreement with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using church 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 facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. This policy applies to all GCC facilities and properties, 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. (See Colossians 3:17.)