

Bright Ministry Center Usage Policy

Purpose Statement

The building facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of donors. Converge desires 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 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.

But facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with Converge's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, Converge's constitution and bylaws. Nor may the building facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with our faith or moral teachings. The President, or his official designee, is the final decision-maker concerning use of Converge facilities.

This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons. First, Converge 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 our beliefs would be material cooperation with that activity, and would be a grave violation of our faith and religious practice. (2 Cor 6:14; 1 Thess 5:22.)

Second, it is very important that we present a consistent message to the community, and that the Converge staff conscientiously maintains 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 our faith would have a severe, negative impact on the message that we strive to promote. It could also cause confusion and scandal Converge members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, we agree 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 Converge's faith use any building facility. Nor may the building facilities be used in any way that contradicts our faith. This policy applies to all building facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the sanctuary, because Converge sees all of its property as holy and set apart to worship God. (Col3:17.)

Approved Users and Priority of Use

The Director of Facilities must approve all uses of building facilities. Building facilities and equipment will be made available to 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 Converge's faith and practice.
2. The group or person seeking facility use must submit a signed "Building Facility Reservation Agreement".
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 Converge's rules of conduct for facility use, as stated below and as described in any additional instructions by Converge staff.

Facility Use Hours

Facilities are available between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Use outside these hours may be approved by the Director of Facilities.

Scheduling Events

Facility use requests shall be made to the Events Coordinator through the Converge website under resources. The event will be reserved and placed on the building calendar when the Events Coordinator receives the proper paperwork and deposits.

Fees

Use of building facilities is subject to a use and maintenance fee that will be documented in the contract prepared by the Events Coordinator.

Facility Use Guidelines

1. Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be served in building facilities with the exception of communion wine.
2. Smoking Policy: Smoking in any indoor building facilities is prohibited.
3. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
4. Food and beverages are allowed in classrooms and worship spaces.
5. **Converge equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event.**
6. All lights must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
7. Groups should place all trash in receptacles and leave the facility as they found it.
8. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited on building premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
9. Any person or group must sign the "Building Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form prior to reservation of building facilities.

Wedding Policy

Weddings will be limited to personnel from sister ministries with a written letter of vetting from that ministries leadership.

Building Facility Reservation Agreement

I affirm that:

1. I understand that Converge does not allow its facilities to be used in a way that contradicts its faith or by persons or groups holding beliefs that contradict our faith.
2. To the best of my knowledge the purpose for which I am requesting use of Converge's facilities will not contradict Converge's faith, and I commit to promptly disclose any potential conflict of which I am aware or become aware to Converge staff.
3. I am not aware of any beliefs that are professed by me or the organization I represent and which is requesting use of the facilities that contradict the beliefs of Converge. I agree to promptly disclose any potential conflicts in belief to Converge staff.
4. I understand that upon approval of my facilities use request, I will need to provide a security deposit and initial payment before my reservation is confirmed.
5. I understand that converge does not allow its facilities to be generally available to the public, and that my use of these facilities is subject to approval, which is conditioned in part on my agreement to the requirements in the "Building 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 facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.
7. Converge believes disputes are to be worked out between parties without recourse to the courts.

See, generally, Matthew Chapter 18 and 1 Corinthians Chapter 6. Accordingly, users of the facility agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.

Name:

Date: