

# FANNIN

## FACILITIES USE POLICY

### Facility Purpose Statement

The Church's (First Baptist Church Fannin) facilities were provided by God's benevolence and the sacrificial generosity of its members. All Church property is consecrated and set apart to worship God (Col. 3:17), and therefore is to be used exclusively to glorify God and edify the Body of Christ. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, the Church makes its facilities available to approved members and non-members on a case-by-case basis as a witness to its faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

The Church's facilities may not be used for activities that contradict, or are inconsistent with, the Church's beliefs (as summarized below by Article III of the Church's Constitution) and also as stated in Article VI: Use of Church Buildings, Equipment and Grounds. This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two reasons. First, the Church may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or promote beliefs that are contrary to its faith (2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Thess. 5:22). Second, the Church must present a consistent public witness to the community through its stewardship of its property. Allowing facilities to be used in a way that contradicts the Church's statement of faith would have a severe, negative impact on the message that the Church strives to promote and could cause confusion and scandal to Church members and the community. Therefore, only events that are consistent with the Church's religious beliefs, as determined by the Senior Pastor and Deacons, shall be permitted

### Article III: DOCTRINE AND STATEMENT OF FAITH

#### Section 1: General

- a. We accept the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the ultimate authority in matters of faith, doctrine, and Christian living. This Church accepts The Baptist Faith and Message adopted June 14, 2000 by the Southern Baptist Convention as an affirmation of our basic Christian beliefs and as a general statement of our faith.
- b. Statement of Final Authority

#### *Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct*

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of First

Baptist Church of Fannin's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Senior Pastor and Deacons are the Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's application.

## Section 2: Marriage and Human Sexuality

- a. Marriage – Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as clearly described in the scriptures. This Church recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Accordingly, this Church, its pastors, staff, and members shall adhere to the biblical standards for marriage as stated in The Baptist Faith and Message, Adopted June 14, 2000, Section XVIII – “Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God’s unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.” No use of Church property, facilities, and resources, may be inconsistent with or contradictory to the above definitions of marriage or any other provision of this Church’s Doctrine and Statement of Faith.
- b. Human Sexuality – The Bible teaches that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, this Church opposes all forms of sexual activity outside the bounds of marriage between one biological man and one biological woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

- c. 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. (Ps. 139).
- d. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of First Baptist Church of Fannin as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to First Baptist Church of Fannin’s members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by these Statements under Article III: Section 2, on Marriage and Human Sexuality (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22).

### Approved Users

Priority shall be given to Church members and Church-sponsored groups or activities. In the Church’s sole discretion, Church facilities may be made available to members and non-members or outside groups (the “User”) meeting the following qualifications:

1. The User must affirm that the planned facility use does not violate the Church’s faith and practice.
2. The User must submit a signed “Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement” form.
3. The User must agree to abide by the Church’s rules of conduct for facility use, as stated on page one and three of this agreement, and as described in any additional instructions by Church staff.
4. The User must take responsibility for the facilities and equipment used.

### Event Requests and Scheduling

Facility use requests shall be made to the Congregational Pastor, Church Administrator or Administrative Assistant by submitting the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form. The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only when the Congregational Pastor, Church Administrator or Administrative Assistant approves the use.

### Facility Use Guidelines

1. Users may only enter and use those areas of the facilities that have been reserved.
2. Smoking is prohibited on Church property.
3. Alcoholic beverages or drugs are prohibited on the Church property at any time during, before, or after the event.
4. All appliances, including the ice machine, must remain plugged in and not unplugged without prior consent.
5. Care must be used when using Church property so that no scratches, torn areas, marks, stains or cuts occur to the property. The floors should be left clean.
6. If the sound system is to be used it may only be operated by persons who have been trained and approved by the Church.
7. The Church's facilities and property are not to be used, and will not be used, in connection with any fundraising activity without prior approval.
8. Food and Beverages are restricted to the kitchen, fellowship hall and family life center.
9. Sex-specific changing areas, restrooms, and showers are to be used by members of the designated biological sex only.
10. Any form of sexual immorality (see page 2, under "Section 2" of this policy) is prohibited on Church property.
11. Church equipment or furniture must not be moved, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event. And if moved, must be returned to original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event.
12. Church equipment or furniture may not be removed from the Church campus without prior approval.
13. All lights must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
14. Abusive or foul language, and violent behavior are strictly prohibited on church premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
15. I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the Church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.

**I (the "User") affirm that:**

1. I understand that the Church does not allow its facilities to be used in a way that materially conflicts with its faith.
2. To the best of my knowledge, the purpose for which I am requesting use of the Church's 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 of to Church staff.
3. 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 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.
4. I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the Church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.
5. I understand that the Church believes disputes are to be worked out between parties pursuant to Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 6, without recourse to the courts. Accordingly, I agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.
6. The User must agree to hold harmless, indemnify, and defend the Church (including the Church's agents, employees and representatives) from any and all liability for injury or damage which may result from any person using the above described Church facilities and/or property, including its entrances and exits, and surrounding areas, for User's purposes, regardless of whether such injury or damage results from the negligence of the Church (including the Church's agents, employees, and representatives) or otherwise.
7. The User must agree to be responsible for use and returning to the pre-use condition all areas of the premises which User will use, including entrances and exits. The Church facilities and property are to be restored to their original condition by the User by the end of the day of use.
8. I understand that if there is any violation of the "Church Facility Use Policy", my/our use of the Church's facilities may be terminated, with a thirty (30) day written notice from the Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GUARDIAN (USER'S) SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

USER'S Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GURADIAN (USER'S) SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

USER'S Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Child(Children) Enrolled \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE:**

Date of Event \_\_\_\_\_