



## Building Use Policy

**The Edge Free Methodist Church** (aka “the Church”) may allow, at its discretion, the use of its facilities for activities and organizations not directly related to the operation the church. The property is held in trust for the Free Methodist Church (aka “FMC-USA”, or “FMC”). The applicant and the party they represent will be known as the “User”.

### Compatible Use

**Mission:** Non-related activities and organizations may be allowed when the goals and actions of all parties involved are compatible with the goals and mission of the Church. No activity shall be conducted on the Church property that is incompatible with the Christian faith and the rules and doctrines of the Free Methodist Church as delineated in Chapter 3 of the most recent edition of the FMC-USA Book of Discipline.

As the spiritual authority of the Church, the Pastor and Board of Administration (aka “BoA”) shall have full authority over a decision relative to whether a use is consistent with the Christian faith, theology, doctrine, and witness. Further, if an activity negatively reflects on the Church’s testimony to the community, then the Pastor and BoA, in their sole discretion, may direct the denial of an application or cancel an event or activity.

**Safety:** The Church may deny an application or cancel an event or activity if it is determined that there is an unreasonable level of risk of injury to persons or property. A representative of the Church given supervisor authority over the use of the facility for a given event or activity has the inherent authority to stop the event or activity in progress if, in their opinion, such action is necessary to protect life, health, or property.

### Priority Use

Church and ministry events and activities take priority over all other uses. This includes any and all services and planned ministry events and activities. If there is already an approved application for a specified time, the Church will attempt to accommodate the calendar. If reasonable accommodation cannot happen, the ministry event will take priority.

## **Non-Taxable Status**

**Property Tax:** The Church property and facilities are exempt from property taxes. Any use that jeopardizes the tax status of the Church property is prohibited.

**Tax Exempt Religious Non-Profit:** The Church is a non-profit religious corporation that is exempt from State and Federal taxation. Any use that jeopardizes the tax status of the Church is prohibited.

## **Insurance**

Users shall provide proof of insurance for the use of the facilities at the discretion of the Church. The amount will be requested by the Church in the application process if applicable.

## **Cancellation or Stoppage**

If the Pastor, BoA, or an authorized representative of the Church determine that an event or activity must be cancelled or stopped for any reason, the Church shall refund the deposit to the User.

Exceptions: If the cancellation is due to misrepresentation by the applicant, there will be no refund. If the stopping of an event or activity is due to intentional unsafe acts by the User, as defined in the moment by a representative of the Church, there will be no refund. If the stopping of an event is due to illegal activities discovered at the time, there will be no refund.

## **Weddings**

The Church deems marriage as a religious purpose and institution. A wedding is a solemnization and celebration of a marriage. All weddings are subject to the Church's marriage doctrine as defined in the most recent edition of the FMC-USA Book of Discipline.

## **Usage Fees**

The Church may charge a usage fee to cover the performance of services such as set-up, tear-down, staff, security, utilities, supplies, cleaning, repairs, etc. Such fees will be kept at or below fair market value for the rental of like property. The charge of a usage fee does not convert the use of the Church facilities into a for-profit transaction. The usage fees will be agreed upon before the use of the property and facilities, unless there are repairs or cleaning needed that are beyond what is deemed reasonable by the Church. In that instance, the additional charge will be at or below market value for like services.