

Covenant OPC

FACILITIES USE POLICY

Date: _____

Covenant OPC facilities exist as evidence of God's benevolence and the sacrificial generosity of past and present **Covenant OPC** families. **Covenant OPC** desires that its facilities be used for the continuing fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory in accordance with its Mission and Vision. Although our facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved individuals and groups in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

Any use of the Covenant OPC facilities must be sponsored by a communicant member of the church. Any use of the church facilities must be only for purposes or events that are consistent with the standards of doctrine and conduct of Covenant OPC and of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as a denomination.

The session of Covenant OPC may refuse requests to use the church property when the requested use could give the impression that the church is supporting a viewpoint inconsistent with the Bible, the denomination's Form of Government, or the denomination's Confession of Faith or catechisms; or, when the Covenant OPC session judges that the requested use could be a distraction from the ministry of the Word or be an unnecessary stumbling block for people who might otherwise benefit from the church's ministry.

This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons. First, **Covenant OPC** may not in good conscience materially cooperate in advancing activities or beliefs that are contrary to its sincerely held religious beliefs. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict its beliefs and would constitute a grave violation of the religious beliefs sincerely held and supported by **Covenant OPC**.

Secondly, we believe it is important that **Covenant OPC** present a consistent message to the community, and that **Covenant OPC** conscientiously maintain that message as part of its Christian witness. Allowing facilities to be used by groups or individuals who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the **Covenant OPC** standards would have a severely negative impact on the message that **Covenant OPC** strives to promote. In addition, it could cause confusion and scandal to families, staff members, volunteers and the community who may reasonably believe that use of our facilities constitutes or supports agreement with the beliefs or practices of individuals or groups using **Covenant OPC** facilities.

Therefore, in no event will individuals or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or engage in practices that contradict **Covenant OPC**'s standards use any **Covenant OPC** facility. This policy applies to all **Covenant OPC** facilities and properties.

APPROVED USERS & PRIORITY OF USE

The **Covenant OPC** Chair of the Trustees or his/her official designee must approve all uses of **Covenant OPC** facilities, the terms and conditions of which must be memorialized through the *Covenant OPC Facility Usage Agreement*.

USER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Facilities Use Policy reviewed by:

Date: _____

User Name: _____

User Representative: _____ *[name]* _____ *[signature]*