

Building Usage Guidelines for 2766 N. Dakota Ave. Modesto, CA. 95358

A. Doctrine

1. First and foremost, it is necessary that any party using the facility must not use it to teach or promote Doctrine contrary to that of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church (SGBC).
2. Though there may be leniency in secondary issues, we cannot bend on important ones.
3. This would also include events that would be contrary to a life of godliness and purity. There must be no alcohol or inappropriate behavior in the building. Simply, it should not be used in anyway that a church would not use it.
4. So, the building is not "any other" building. It is a place of worship and ought to be treated with dignity in this regard.
5. Doctrine may also extend into areas of individual philosophical differences. In other words, events and/or organizations who take a stronger position on something should not cause dissention if they happen to hold a view different than the body at SGBC as a whole.
 - a. For example: If you hold that there is no possibility that a Christian should do anything other than homeschool their children, or that it is sinful to do otherwise, it is likely that this is not the view of the whole body at SGBC and teaching thus may offend.
 - b. There are issues that may be less important, yet the guideline remains. If for example, you hold that Classical training in music is the only appropriate method and find alternative training like Suzuki offensive, this could cause trouble.
 - c. Simply put, it is not sensible to allow events or groups to use the building that would attempt to undo the charity and fellowship we enjoy as a diverse group of believers.
 - d. We have peace and want to retain it.

B. Cost

1. The Lord has blessed our church by allowing us to consistently reach our budget. Hallelujah! Subsequently we have not needed to find other ways of funding our budget like building rental.
2. This being the case, we are not attempting to profit or generate revenue from our building.
3. It is appropriate however for a group using the facility to consider the cost of using the building and donate accordingly.
4. We do not want to make money from the building, yet we cannot afford to let it cost us either.
5. Perhaps a suggested donation amount of \$10 per hour per floor used would be an acceptable starting point. Should a group choose to give more, the amount given is guaranteed to go into the building fund for upkeep and building improvements.

C. Priority

1. Simply put: SGBC events take priority over all others. The building was bought for worship and the fellowship of the believers at SGBC. Therefore, the needs of the church will always take precedent over the needs of the group seeking to use the facility.
2. Should an event overlap, we may seek to find a way to do both if possible and practical, but if this fails, SGBC gets priority. This should not be seen as cold, but rather a commitment to

honor the Lord who gave us our wonderful property and our commitment as a church to use it for Him.

3. Efforts will be made to deny usage of facilities on Saturday afternoons and evenings in order to give ample time for our janitors to clean and prepare for Sunday Services.

D. Usage

1. Any group using the facility must take care to steward the building and grounds as if they are managing the Lord's property because they are.

2. Often folks use a facility and think that its owners will maintain and clean up the mess they themselves make. This point is especially crucial since SGBC does not have paid janitorial staff, but uses volunteer help to clean the facilities. All believers are to be faithful stewards, whether they own a property or rent it.

3. The facility should be treated as precious. Cleaned, maintained, protected and left in as good of shape or better than found. This is a good show of honor to the Giver of the building.

4. It is not desirable that the building is used on a weekly or very regular basis, but rather once in a while on a special occasion or because of a scheduling conflict making it necessary. Other options might be sought before SGBC is asked.

E. Process

1. Any group desiring to use the building should send for approval a proposal outlining their planned usage including date, hours, whether or not heat and air is to be used, which areas of the building will be used, who the contact person is who is responsible, etc.

2. Depending on the scope of the event (size of crowd, frequency, nature of the meeting), the Pastors may consult each other, the Deacons and/or membership to decide if the event should take place.

3. It is important that charity and grace be given on all sides. If the event is not approved, the folks who are told they will not use the facility ought to react with grace knowing that they have been considered and that the decision was made with respect and honor of the Lord.

4. And likewise if approved, it should be taken with care and cause diligence in recognition of a desire of SGBC to honor the Lord in the approval.

Guideline Agreement

Please give this (signed) and your proposal to a Pastor, Deacon or the church secretary. Or, if you are receiving this via e-mail reply to the e-mail with "We Agree to the Usage Guidelines" in the subject box in lieu of a signature.

I (We) _____ (group requesting use or person representing the group) by signing this document agree to the guidelines and will comply with them when we use the facilities located at 2766 N. Dakota Ave., Modesto California on _____ (requested use date).

Signature:

Date:
