

Dale Bible Church Building Use Policy

Purpose

Dale Bible Church is a local body of believers committed to glorifying God through Jesus Christ by Loving the Lord, Living the Word, and Reaching the People. The church building is a facility dedicated to hosting activities that align with God's will, biblical examples of acceptable use, and the church's mission and by-laws. This policy establishes guidelines for the acceptable use of the church building by congregants who are active in the church, ensuring all activities reflect the church's doctrinal beliefs and biblical standards.

Scope

This policy applies to all congregants of Dale Bible Church seeking to use the church building for events or activities.

Eligibility

- **Congregants:** Individuals who consistently participate in Dale Bible Church services or activities and are actively involved in the church may request to use the church building.
 - **Consistent Participation:** Defined as attending worship services or church activities for a minimum of six months, demonstrating ongoing engagement with the church community.
 - **Active Involvement:** Includes, but is not limited to, volunteering (e.g., serving in children's ministry, ushering, event setup, or hospitality), participating in Bible studies or small groups, contributing to outreach or evangelism efforts (e.g., Vacation Bible School or community service), assisting with church maintenance, or serving in music or worship ministries. Active involvement reflects a commitment to the church's mission to Love the Lord, Live the Word, and Reach the People (Membership Handbook, p. 5).
 - Congregants must agree with the church's Doctrinal Statement (Membership Handbook, p. 22-23) and adhere to biblical standards of conduct.

Permitted Uses

The church building is a facility for activities that align with God's will, as exemplified in the Bible (e.g., worship, fellowship, teaching, and evangelism in Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 14:26) and the church's mission and by-laws. Permitted uses must glorify God and edify the church body or community. Acceptable uses include, but are not limited to:

- **Worship Services:** Corporate worship, prayer meetings, and Bible studies that proclaim the Gospel and edify believers.
- **Ordinances:** Baptism and the Lord's Supper, administered in accordance with By-Laws IV.
- **Fellowship Events:** Church-wide gatherings, such as potlucks or congregant celebrations, that foster unity and fellowship among believers.
- **Ministry Activities:** Sunday School, youth group, women's or men's ministries, and other programs under the oversight of the Elder Board.
- **Private Events:** Weddings, funerals, memorial services, family gatherings, birthday parties, Tupperware parties, or similar private events hosted by active congregants, provided they align with biblical standards of conduct, the church's Doctrinal Statement, and the Statement on Marriage and Sexuality (Membership Handbook, p. 22-23). Private events will not be included on the church calendar and will not be promoted through church media (e.g., website, app, social media).
- **Evangelistic Outreach:** Events designed to share the Gospel with the community, such as Vacation Bible School or missionary presentations, in line with the church's commitment to personal evangelism and global missions (Membership Handbook, p. 12-13).
- **Community Refuge and Support:** Use of the building as a storm shelter or for community support during natural disasters, provided the activity is hosted by an active congregant, reflecting the church's commitment to serving the community in times of need (e.g., Matthew 25:35-40).

Restricted Activities

The following activities are prohibited in the church building to ensure alignment with God's will, biblical standards, and the church's by-laws:

- Any activity that contradicts the church's Doctrinal Statement or Statement on Marriage and Sexuality, including events promoting or involving sexual immorality, as defined in Leviticus 18:1-30, Romans 1:26-27, or 1 Corinthians 6:18.
- Consumption or distribution of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco products.
- Political campaigns, rallies, or events endorsing specific candidates or legislation.

- Interfaith or ecumenical events that compromise the church's commitment to biblical truth, as outlined in the Membership Handbook's stance on Movements Contrary to Faith (p. 22).
- Events that involve secular entertainment or performances that do not glorify God or align with the church's mission.

Scheduling and Approval

- All requests to use the church building must be submitted to the Deaconesses via email or webapp.
- Requests must be made at least two weeks in advance and include a detailed description of the event, its purpose, expected attendance, and evidence of the congregant's active involvement (e.g., specific volunteer roles or ministry participation). For emergency uses, such as community refuge during natural disasters, requests should be submitted as soon as possible.
- The Deaconesses will review and approve requests that clearly align with this policy. If there is any question regarding the proposed use's compliance with the policy, the Deaconesses may submit the request to the Elder Board for review.
- Priority will be given to church-wide worship services, ordinances, and ministry activities.
- A church calendar will be maintained by the Deaconesses to avoid conflicts, and users will be notified of approval or denial within one week of submission (or as soon as feasible for emergency requests). Private events will not be included on the church calendar.

Maintenance and Cleanup Responsibilities

- Users are responsible for maintaining the church building in a clean and orderly condition, reflecting stewardship of God's provision.
- Before the event, users must coordinate with the Deaconesses to ensure proper setup and access to necessary facilities.
- After the event, users must:
 - Clean all used areas, including restrooms, kitchens, and meeting spaces.
 - Remove all decorations, trash, and personal items.
 - Return furniture and equipment to their original positions.

- Report any damage or maintenance issues to the Deaconesses immediately.
- For community refuge events, the hosting congregant is responsible for ensuring cleanup and maintenance, with support from volunteers as needed.

Compliance and Discipline

- Failure to adhere to this policy, including improper use of the church building, hosting unapproved events, or neglecting maintenance and cleanup responsibilities, may be addressed through the church's discipline process, as outlined in the Membership Handbook (p. 15).
- Disciplinary actions may include loss of building use privileges or other measures as determined by the Elder Board, in accordance with By-Laws I.C.
- The Elder Board is responsible for overseeing approved uses to ensure ongoing compliance with this policy and that all activities honor God and uphold the church's testimony in the community.

Contact Information

For scheduling requests or questions about this policy, congregants may submit requests to the Deaconesses via email or webapp.