

*Clifford Baptist Church  
Policies and Procedures Manual*

**Facility Usage Policy**

**Biblical Prerequisites for Facility Usage**

Clifford Baptist Church (hereafter called CBC) understands that the buildings and grounds belong to the Lord and not to the fellowship. Consequently, church leadership has attempted to come as close as possible to using the building, or allowing the building to be used, only in activities that can be supported biblically, without running the risk of appearing to be supportive of anything unbiblical.

There are four scenarios that such requests would fall under:

- 1) General Use - Events such as birthday parties, family gatherings, anniversary parties, etc.
- 2) Weddings, Receptions, and Bridal Showers
- 3) Baby Showers
- 4) Personal Fundraisers
  - a. Fundraiser will need to be approved by staff and/or Deacons
  - b. Has to be a member or a regular attendee of CBC
  - c. One per calendar year
  - d. Have a reasonable amount of time between other scheduled fundraiser at CBC (to be determined by the discretion of the office)

Below is the online link to the form that will be used when someone requests usage of the church for personal reservations.

<https://cliffordbaptistva.churchcenter.com/people/forms/693174>

**Situations that Would Preclude Someone from Using the Facility**

Situation: CBC pastors believe that biblical standards keep us from marrying couples who are living together. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

*Answer: The couple would agree to marital counseling and agree to no longer live together for one (1) month minimum prior to the wedding.*

Situation: A couple is living together, but chooses to have an officiating pastor other than CBC pastors. (1 Corinthians 6:18-21)

*Answer: The couple would agree to marital counseling by a pastor of the Christian faith who will perform the wedding. The couple would agree to no longer live together until after the wedding. The officiating pastor would be responsible to contact CBC to schedule the wedding date.*

Situation: One or the other of the couple isn't a Christian. (2 Corinthians 6:14)

*Answer: It is unbiblical to marry a believer to a non-believer; therefore, the couple would have to agree to marital counseling and the wedding postponed until and if the non-believer has a genuine conversion to Jesus Christ as Savior.*

Situation: One or both of the couple wishing to be married have experienced an unbiblical divorce. (Matthew 5:32, Matthew 19:9, Mark 10:9, and 1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

*Answer: Biblically speaking, as CBC pastors understand the scriptures, unless the divorce was enacted because of unfaithfulness or abandonment, they can neither marry them nor can the facility be used for the wedding. However, if they will work with pastors on redemptive counseling, pastors may reconsider the decision.*

Situation: A CBC non-member wishes to use the church facility for an appropriate event.

*Answer: Only immediate family of CBC members are allowed to rent the facility. Immediate family will be defined as parents, children, siblings, and grandchildren of a CBC member. Any requested exception must be brought to the Staff for approval. A non-member is required to have a CBC member in good standing to sponsor the event.*

Situation: A member or non-members wishes to use the facility to promote their personal business.

*Answer: CBC leadership has chosen not to allow the church property or buildings to be used for financial gain for either individuals or organizations.*

Situation: Civic groups ask permission to use the facility.

*Answer: Only groups whose activities don't conflict with biblical principles may use the facility. For example, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts would no longer be allowed to use the facility because of their leadership's stance on homosexuality. (Romans 1:24-28)*

There may be other situations not dealt with specifically here. It is hoped that the intent of CBC is clear in that we love both God and people and wish only to honor the Lord in the way in which Word and property are handled. Church leadership is willing to help anyone in an unbiblical situation to see their way to the biblical position and remove the stumbling block.