

# Church of God of Prophecy

## FACILITIES USE AGREEMENT

### Purpose Statement

Church of God of Prophecy (“COGOP”) facilities were provided through God’s benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of COGOP members. The COGOP desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-members as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

But facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the COGOP’s faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in the attached “Condensed Statement of Beliefs” as well as in the COGOP bylaws and the official Church of God of Prophecy website [www.cogop.org](http://www.cogop.org). COGOP facilities shall not be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with the Church of God of Prophecy’s faith or moral teachings. The Bishop, Pastor, or his official designee, is the final decision maker concerning use of COGOP facilities.

This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons. First, the COGOP may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict the COGOP’s beliefs would be material cooperation with that activity, and would be a grave violation of the COGOP’s faith and religious practice (2 Cor 6:14; 1 Thess 5:22).

Second, it is very important that the COGOP present a consistent message to the community, and that the COGOP staff and members conscientiously maintain that message as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Allowing facilities to be used by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the COGOP’s faith would have a severe, negative impact on the message that the COGOP strives to promote. It could also cause confusion and scandal to COGOP members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the COGOP agrees with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using its facilities.

Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who advance or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the COGOP’s faith use any COGOP facility. Nor may COGOP facilities be used in any way that contradicts the COGOP’s faith. This policy applies to all COGOP facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the COGOP’s sanctuary, because the COGOP sees all of its property as holy and set apart to worship God (Col 3:17).

### Approved Users and Priority of Use

The Bishop, Pastor, or official designee must approve all uses of COGOP facilities. Generally, priority shall be given to COGOP members, their immediate families, and organized groups that are part of the ministry, organization, or sponsored activities of the COGOP. COGOP facilities and equipment will be made available to non-members or outside groups meeting the following qualifications:

1. Groups or persons requesting facility use must affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses of the facilities are not inconsistent with the COGOP’s faith and practice.
2. The group or person seeking facility use must submit a signed “COGOP Facility Reservation Request and Agreement” form.

3. The group or person seeking facility use must be willing to take responsibility for the facilities and equipment used and must agree to abide by the COGOP's rules of conduct for facility use, as stated below and as described in any additional instructions by COGOP staff.
4. The group or person seeking facility use must agree not to violate the COGOP's rules of conduct for facility use, as stated below and as described in any additional instructions by COGOP staff.

**Facility Use Guidelines**

1. Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be served in COGOP facilities.
2. Smoking Policy: Smoking in any indoor COGOP facilities is prohibited.
3. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
4. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited on COGOP premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
5. Any person or group must sign the "COGOP Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form prior to reservation of COGOP facilities.

**I affirm that:**

1. I understand that the COGOP does not allow its facilities to be used in a way that contradicts its faith or by persons or groups advancing beliefs that contradict the COGOP's faith as contained in the attached **"Condensed Statement of Doctrine and Beliefs"**.
2. To the best of my knowledge the purpose for which I am requesting use of COGOP facilities will not contradict the COGOP's faith, and I commit to promptly disclose any potential conflict of which I am aware or become aware to COGOP staff.
3. I am not aware of any beliefs that are professed by me or the organization I represent and which is requesting use of the COGOP's facilities that contradict the "Condensed Statement of Doctrine and Beliefs" of the COGOP. I agree to promptly disclose any potential conflicts in belief to COGOP staff.
4. I understand that the COGOP does not allow its facilities to be generally available to the public, and that my use of these facilities is subject to the approval of the COGOP State Overseer, or his appointed representative, which is conditioned in part on my agreement to the requirements in the "COGOP Facility Use Agreement," a copy of which I have read and understood.
5. I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the COGOP facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.
6. The COGOP believes disputes are to be worked out between parties without recourse to the courts. See, generally, Matthew Chapter 18 and 1 Corinthians Chapter 6. Accordingly, users of the facility agree to binding resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation and arbitration (including, but not limited to Peacemaker Ministries, [www.peacemaker.net](http://www.peacemaker.net)).

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Name:

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Date

# CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE AND BELIEFS

(A comprehensive listing of doctrine and beliefs is contained in  
“Biblical Principles, Beliefs, and Practices of the Church of God of Prophecy,”  
97th International Assembly Minutes)

### 1. The Great Commandment

*You [followers of Christ] shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*

### 2. The Great Commission

*All authority has been given to Me [Jesus] in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

**Matthew 28:18-20**

### 3. Marriage and the Family

**Matrimony is a holy monogamous marriage between one man and one woman.**

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

**Genesis 2:24**

*...let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.*

**1 Corinthians 7:2-4**

*Now to the married I [Paul] command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband.*

**1 Corinthians 7:10**

*For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body... For this reason [Eve created out of Adam – bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh] a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*

**Ephesians 5:23, 31**

*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled...*

**Hebrews 13:4**

*Marriage is a covenant made between two people, one man and one woman, with God. The Christian marriage covenant requires the married parties to be faithful, loving and helpful to each other as long as they both shall live (Malachi 2:15-16; Matthew 5:32; 19:5-6,9; Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 15; II Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:22-25).*

*Marriage is a union ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis, codified in the Levitical law, the Old Testament prophets compared it to a relationship between God and his people, examples of it are in the historical narratives, and, the scripture discusses the unique unity of this relationship. Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage, and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union. Marriage is a typology of Jesus Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution*

established by God. We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man, and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

Due to the importance of marriage in the biblical witness, this church adopts the following:

Only currently Licensed or Ordained staff Pastors of the Church of God of Prophecy may officiate a marriage ceremony or renewal of vows ceremony.

Staff Pastors shall be subject to dismissal and loss of Licensing/Ordination for officiating a same gender or transgender marriage ceremony, or a same gender or transgender renewal of vows ceremony.

Facilities or properties may not be used by any individual, group, or organization that advocates, endorses, or promotes homosexuality or transgender life as an alternative or acceptable lifestyle. This policy applies to events including but not limited to: Birthday Parties, Classes, Reunions, Anniversaries, Baby Showers, Weddings, and Renewal of Vows Services.

### **Matrimony is ordained by God**

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."  
**Genesis 2:18**

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you..."  
**Exodus 20:12**

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.  
**Genesis 2:21-24**

"For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."  
**Malachi 2:6**

### **Matrimony is the basic unit of society through its ministry and testimony**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.  
**Ephesians 5:22-33**

### **Statement on Gender and Sexuality**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.  
**Genesis 1:27**

*This means that man and woman are two distinct genders willed by God their Creator in their respective beings, which reflect the image and nature of God. 'Being man' or 'being woman' is a reality that is good and willed by God. Therefore, to reject one's biological gender is to reject the work of the Creator and imply that God made a mistake. God does not make mistakes.*

**Romans 1:24-27, Job 42:1-3, Isaiah 55:8, 9**

*As God's image bearers, man and woman have inalienable rights and ensuing responsibilities. Man and woman should be treated with dignity and respect. They should also lead lives worthy of the dignity of their unique gender. This is done by living chastely – a call all baptized Christians are called to follow.*

**Ephesians 5:3**

*As man and woman "put on Christ" – the model for all chastity – they pledge to lead a chaste life consistent with their vocation either by consecrating themselves to God or entering the God ordained institution of marriage. A chaste person respects the gift of sexuality given to him or her by God. Married people are called to live conjugal chastity. "Marriage" has only one meaning: the matrimonial covenant, by which one man and one woman unite themselves in a lifelong partnership. God commands that the gift of sexual intimacy occur only between spouses of the opposite sex who are joined in Holy Matrimony.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Romans 13:13-14, Hebrews 13:4**

*Therefore any sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God.*

**Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

*But God is merciful to all sinners. He offers redemption to all who confess and forsake their sins. Seeking His forgiveness and Mercy through Jesus Christ.*

**Matthew 16:19, Isaiah 22:22, Matthew 18:18, John 20:21, John 20:22-23**

*In the Spirit of Christ, every person deserves to be treated with compassion, love, respect, and dignity, regardless of his or her position on Church teaching. Hateful behavior is inconsistent with the Gospel of Christ and the doctrine of the Church and should always be repudiated.*

*In order to preserve the integrity of the Church as the Body of Christ, it is imperative that all church employees and volunteers agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. Church employees and volunteers have a special duty to live this statement since they serve as role models for society and the church community.*

#### **4. Church Order**

*Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*

**1 Corinthians 14:40**

*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies and the like. . . . But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

**Galatians 5: 16-23**