

Blackford, Bret B.

From: Blackford, Bret B.
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 11:44 AM
To: M Bret Blackford
Cc: M Bret Blackford (MBlackford@archcoal.com)
Subject: July 2025 MX Facility Use
Attachments: BestPractices-ChurchFacilityUse.docx; DRAFT MX-FacilityUsePolicy.docx

- **Church Facility Use – Best Practices** - [.pdf](#) or [.docx](#)
- **MX Facility Use Policy (DRAFT)** - [.pdf](#) or [.docx](#)

From: M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 11:13 AM
To: MX MXElders <mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org>; Jeff McGlawn <jmcglawn@mcknightcrossings.org>
Cc: Blackford, Bret B. <MichaelBlackford@coreresources.com>
Subject: **MX Facility Use**

Guys,

I’d like to raise a topic for our consideration regarding ongoing facility use at McKnight. This isn’t urgent, but I believe it’s a timely matter for future discussion—especially in light of current budget constraints.

At present, several outside groups use our building on a regular basis, including:

- A basketball group that uses the gym weekly,
- Multiple pickleball groups using the gym 5–6 times per week,
- Groups using the 4th floor, such as L’Arche, Christian Family Services (CFS), and ACTS Campus Ministry.

Currently, none of these groups pay for their use of the building. While we want to extend hospitality and make generous use of the resources God has entrusted to us, each use of our facility does come with both direct and indirect costs:

- Snow removal (which can exceed \$600 per occurrence),
- Heating and cooling expenses,
- Gym floor maintenance (mopping, buffing, occasional stripping/waxing),
- Risk of wall and equipment damage from recreational use,
- Insurance and liability exposure,
- Key management and building access concerns.

Given our financial reality, I believe it’s reasonable to consider asking groups to contribute toward these actual expenses—not to create a profit stream, but to recover costs and promote good stewardship.

To that end, we might explore:

- Charging a reasonable fee to non-member/non-mission groups to cover costs,
- Requiring each group to have a designated point of contact who signs a liability waiver and assumes responsibility for group access and conduct,
- Having individual participants in athletic activities (e.g., pickleball, basketball) sign waivers acknowledging inherent risks.

As a reference point, we currently charge for facility use in the context of weddings and funerals—yet some of the most frequent uses of our building take place without any cost or formal structure.

As a starting recommendation, I propose that we ask all outside groups not formally affiliated with McKnight (with exceptions for ACTS, CFS, and other mission-aligned ministries) to pay a fair-use fee. This approach would help ensure sustainability, protect the church, and clarify expectations.

I’ve attached a draft facility use policy and a summary of best practices from other churches for your review. No rush on this but think it something we should consider.

--- Bret