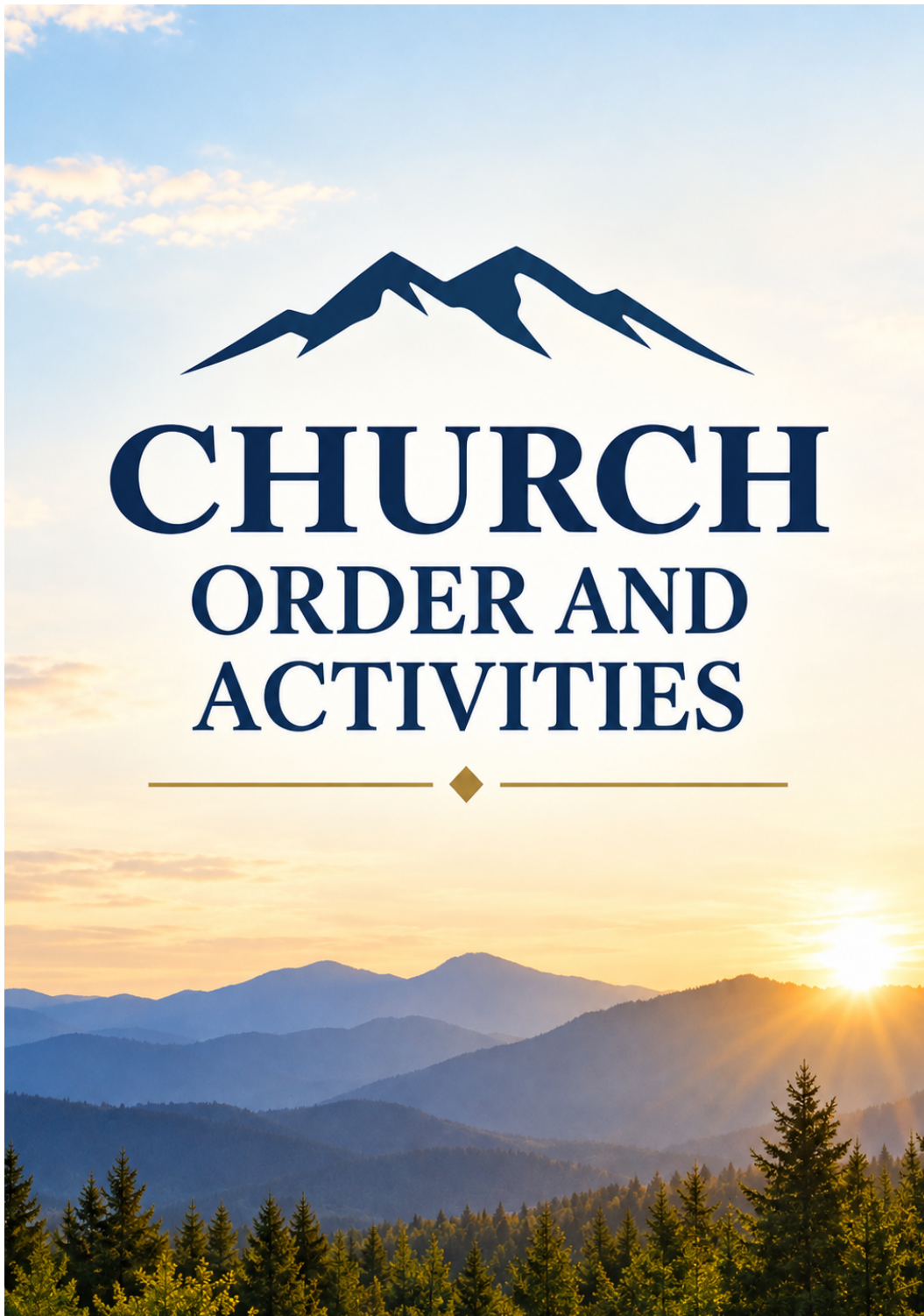




Scott Sare, Pastor

The guidelines below are my stance for the public ministry to the congregation of Abundant Grace Fellowship and the intended use of the church building for worship and additional events, such as weddings or funerals. This list is not comprehensive or exhaustive; rather, it is designed to set expectations for those who assemble together in our local assembly and to prevent misunderstandings when decisions are made in specific situations.

The items below are not expounded upon in extensive detail, as many of these topics are covered in weekly lessons (recordings available on the website) as well as in the booklets that have been posted under the tract section of the website. These stances are based upon both the word of God and/or my convictions as pastor of Abundant Grace Fellowship. As with anything, if there are any questions or needs that arise, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at any time.

Order of service:

Typically speaking, our order of service will involve prayer and worship, the singing of songs with an accompaniment of instruments, and the teaching of the word of God. Though there is a general order of service that we follow for each of our meetings, we want to always ensure we are open to and following the leading of the Spirit every time we assemble ourselves together. As an assembly that seeks to be Spirit-filled, we welcome the exercising of spiritual gifts, as bestowed upon individuals for the benefit and edification of the corporate body. It is also expected that these gifts will follow Paul's instructions to us on the order of services and for the edification of all, as outlined in First Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Public ministering to the congregation:

Abundant Grace Fellowship welcomes whosoever will to come to fellowship with us in our local assembly. In fact, I believe it is critical that believers in Jesus Christ assemble together regularly to receive instruction in the word of God, to fellowship with other believers, and to be transformed by the working of the Spirit. Any and all are welcome to come and take in the Word of God and attend our church services and activities.

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. NKJV

There are no requirements to attend or participate in any event in our local assembly. There are no specific expectations that an individual must meet to be considered a member of the congregation, participate in the study of God's Word, or congregational worship. However, if one desires to minister in a public capacity through teaching of the word, singing a special song, or playing an instrument during our song service, there is an expectation of being an example of godliness; this includes maintaining sexual morality, abstaining from alcohol, and faithful attendance. If anyone were to fall short in these areas, there is grace for forgiveness, restoration to fellowship, and can be a return to ministry. However, shortcomings must be acknowledged with accountability and humbly repented of prior to resuming a position in public ministry.

1 Timothy 4:12

12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. NKJV

Weddings (and use of the church building):

The church building is a place that is designed to proclaim and live out the gospel of Jesus Christ in accordance with the word of God. For our church building to be used for a public wedding ceremony, and for me to officiate, the following criteria must be met: the union is between one man and one woman who have accepted Jesus as their Savior, they are not having sexual relations before marriage, have not been married before, are willing to participate in pre-marital counseling, and are committed to sit under a godly ministry during their marriage. If the first three requirements have not been met, a wedding ceremony can still take place; however, it will not be allowed to occur in the main church sanctuary. God's grace is sufficient to restore and heal in situations where there has been a previous marriage or sexual relations before marriage, so long as those individuals are willing to look to God and honor Him in the future union, while also meeting the last two wedding criteria.

As a part of the pre-marital counseling, the actual wedding ceremony and reception plans will be discussed in detail prior to my committing to participate in the service. I will not participate in an official pastoral capacity at any wedding in which alcohol will be present. Additionally, if dancing will be involved at the reception, we will need to discuss expectations and concerns with actions that could devolve into something unscriptural or unexpected. The church can also be used to host a wedding shower for the couple, should one be desired, so long as the wedding requirements have been met.

Generally speaking, the church building will only be used for weddings for members of the congregation and their immediate family. Our church building is not set up to be a venue that can be rented or used by outside groups to perform these ceremonies. Additionally, with very few exceptions, weddings will be officiated by the pastor of Abundant Grace Fellowship.

Hebrews 13:4

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Funerals (and use of the church building):

Funerals in the church building will be limited to those for members of the congregation and their immediate families. Again, our church building is not set up to be a venue that can be rented or used by outside groups to hold funerals or memorial services. Additionally, with very few exceptions, funerals will be officiated by the pastor of Abundant Grace Fellowship.

Pastoral visitation for the sick:

I am always available to visit and pray with those who are sick or in need of urgent prayer. I am happy to visit in person (including hospitals) or via telephone, whatever is preferred by the one who is requesting prayer. I do not make a practice of visiting when not requested in order to respect the privacy of individuals and families. If and when the Lord leads, I may send a text or make a phone call to check in, but never want to come across as pressuring or making anyone feel guilty for not being in meeting.

James 5:14

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Official church activities:

Activities that are sponsored or sanctioned by the church must be approved by the pastor of Abundant Grace Fellowship. These activities will generally be limited, and will involve a responsible party appointed by the pastor. Additionally, these activities must be focused upon our spiritual growth as an assembly, centered on Christ, and open to all of the appropriate audience intended. I welcome and encourage members of the church to get together outside of the meeting for times of recreation or fellowship, but those are not to be seen as an official church activity and any details or planning will be left to those who choose to get together on their own time.