



Facility Use Policy

DRAFT FOR ATTORNEY REVIEW · OCTOBER 2026

Thread & Vine Hall is a ministry of SOJO Church. This policy explains what we can host, why, and how we decide, so every renter knows before they book.

I. Purpose

- 1.1 Thread & Vine Hall at Gibson Mill (the **Venue**) is owned and operated by SOJO Church, a North Carolina nonprofit church (the **Church**). The Venue is part of the Church's ministry. We open it to our city because we believe good gatherings are a gift: families celebrating, businesses working, causes doing good, music being made.
- 1.2 Because the Venue is a ministry of the Church, every use of it must be consistent with the Church's religious beliefs and mission. This policy applies to every person or group that uses the Venue (a **Renter**), whether paying public rates, nonprofit rates, church family rates or no fee at all.
- 1.3 Thread & Vine Hall is a ministry of SOJO Church. Every use of the Venue is an extension of the Church's ministry, and the Venue is not a place of public accommodation. The Church makes the Venue available to individuals and groups at its discretion, consistent with its religious beliefs.

IN PLAIN WORDS

We love hosting. The building belongs to a church, so what happens here has to fit what the church believes. This policy says what that means, before anyone signs anything.

2. What we believe

- 2.1 The Church's beliefs are set out in its Statement of Faith, published at sojo.church/beliefs. On marriage and gender, the Statement of Faith reads:

We believe that matrimony is a holy monogamous marriage between one man and one woman. 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.

SOJO Church Statement of Faith, Article 9, Marriage & Gender · Genesis 2:24 · Malachi 2:16 · Matthew 19:4–6 · Deuteronomy 22:5 · Romans 1:26–27

- 2.2 The full Statement of Faith is part of this policy by reference. The Church's leadership is the final interpreter of the Statement of Faith and of how it applies to any proposed event.

IN PLAIN WORDS

This is what our church has always taught. We quote it word for word so nobody has to guess where we stand.

3. Everyone is welcome to ask

- 3.1 Anyone may tour the Venue and apply to rent it. We review the **event**, not the person: its purpose, its program and what it celebrates or promotes.
- 3.2 We apply this policy the same way to every Renter. Guests at any event are treated with kindness and respect by our team, whoever they are.
- 3.3 Worship services, religious ceremonies, religious instruction and ministry events are hosted only for orthodox Christian churches and ministries: those that affirm the historic Christian faith as summarized in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. We do not host the services or religious events of other faiths or religious groups.
- 3.4 Nonprofit rates are available to orthodox Christian churches and ministries, and to nonprofit organizations that serve our city and whose mission and activities line up with the Church's faith tradition and this policy.

IN PLAIN WORDS

We say no to some events. We never say no to people because of who they are, and we treat every guest well. Worship and ministry events here are for orthodox Christian churches and ministries, and our nonprofit partners share our faith tradition.

4. Events we cannot host

- 4.1 The Venue will not be used for any event, activity, message, performance, display or promotion that conflicts with the Church's Statement of Faith. This includes, without limitation:
- Wedding ceremonies, receptions, vow renewals, anniversaries, engagement parties, showers or other celebrations of any marriage or union other than between one man and one woman.
 - Events that celebrate, promote or affirm sexual conduct or gender identity contrary to the Statement of Faith.
 - Worship services, rituals, ceremonies or religious teaching of any faith or religious group outside orthodox Christianity.

- Political campaign events: rallies, fundraisers, endorsements or events for or against any candidate or party. As a 501(c)(3) church, we cannot take part in political campaigns. Nonpartisan civic events, such as a candidate forum open to all candidates, may be considered case by case.
 - Events involving illegal activity or illegal drugs, including cannabis.
 - Occult or spiritualist practices: séances, tarot or psychic readings, witchcraft, or similar activities.
 - Sexually explicit content, adult entertainment, strippers or burlesque, or lingerie and similar parties.
 - Gambling for money or prizes, other than a raffle that is legal under North Carolina law for a qualified nonprofit.
 - Events that promote hatred, violence or contempt toward any person or group.
 - Events that oppose, mock or ridicule the Christian faith, the Church or its beliefs.
- 4.2 Concerts and shows at the Venue feature Christian artists and music, [or artists the Lead Pastor approves in writing as consistent with this policy]. Music, speakers, videos, displays, decorations, printed materials and entertainment at any event must also fit this policy. For concerts and shows, the Renter shares the set list or program and the names of every performer with us at least [30] days before the event.

IN PLAIN WORDS

No same-sex weddings or celebrations, no other faiths' services, no political campaign events, nothing illegal, explicit, occult or hateful, and nothing that mocks the faith. Concerts here are Christian. That goes for the music and the décor too, not just the event name.

5. Alcohol, smoking and conduct

- 5.1 Alcohol may be served at private events only by a licensed and insured bartender or mobile bar service. Renters may not sell alcohol or charge for drinks without the proper ABC permits and our written approval. Bar service ends at least [30] minutes before the event ends. No one under 21 may be served, and no shots or drinking games are allowed.
- 5.2 No smoking, vaping or e-cigarettes inside the Venue or within [25] feet of any entrance. No illegal drugs on the Gibson Mill property.
- 5.3 Renters are responsible for the conduct of their guests, vendors and performers. Our event lead may stop service, end an event or ask a guest to leave when conduct is unsafe, unlawful or in clear conflict with this policy.

IN PLAIN WORDS

Licensed bartenders only, no smoking inside, and the host is responsible for their guests. If something gets unsafe, our event lead can step in.

6. How we decide

- 6.1 Every application is reviewed before a date is confirmed. The Renter describes the event honestly on the Rental Application, including its purpose, program, performers and any honorees.
- 6.2 The Lead Pastor of the Church, or a person the Lead Pastor names in writing, decides whether a proposed event fits this policy. The decision is final. When we decline an application, any deposit already paid is returned in full.
- 6.3 If a Renter has questions about whether an event fits, we would rather talk before booking. Ask us during your tour.

IN PLAIN WORDS

Tell us what the event really is. If we can't host it, you get your money back and no hard feelings.

7. If an event was misrepresented

- 7.1 If we learn, before or during an event, that it was misrepresented on the application or that it conflicts with this policy, we may cancel the booking or end the event. In that case the Renter forfeits the booking deposit and any rental fees paid, and remains responsible for any damage or costs.
- 7.2 [Attorney to confirm: wording of this section and its fit with the Rental Agreements.]

IN PLAIN WORDS

If someone books one kind of event and holds another, we can shut it down and keep what was paid.

8. Changes to this policy

- 8.1 The Church may update this policy at any time. The version in effect on the date a Rental Agreement is signed applies to that booking.
- 8.2 [Attorney to confirm: any religious-organization language needed under North Carolina and federal law.]

Acknowledgment

I have read the Thread & Vine Hall Facility Use Policy and the SOJO Church Statement of Faith section quoted above. I confirm that my event, as described on my Rental Application, fits this policy, and I agree that my guests, vendors and performers will follow it.

RENTER

Signature

Printed name and title

Date

THREAD & VINE HALL (SOJO CHURCH)

Signature

Printed name and title

Date