

Guidelines on Third Party Rentals to non- Catholic organizations/events

As set out in the Vancouver License Agreement, before approving any Third Party Rental, the Parish is expected to collect relevant information, in writing through the completion of the License Agreement and through discussions with the proposed event holder, to ensure that the proposed use of the premises will comply with the requirements of the License Agreement.

An essential requirement for all Parish rentals is an acknowledgment, by the proposed event holder, that the use of the Premises will not contravene the practices or teachings on matters of faith and morals of the Roman Catholic Church. Clause 3 of the License Agreement states, in bold, under **Purpose of Licence**:

The Licensee shall use the Premises solely for the purpose of:

The Licensee will not use the Premises for any other purpose without the prior written consent of the Pastor of the Parish or his delegate.

The Licensee acknowledges that the Premises may in no event be used for any purpose which is unlawful or contrary to the practices, or teachings on matters of faith and morals, of the Roman Catholic Church as interpreted by the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

(the “Faith and Morals Clause”)

All License Agreements should be completed in full, with each page signed or initialed where indicated and the Faith and Morals Clause independently signed. Where any fields are left blank in the License Agreement, the Parish should communicate to the Applicant that the rental request cannot be processed or agreed until the License Agreement is fully completed while explaining the significance of any of the absent information, and answering any related questions, as needed. Complete copies of any and all License Agreements are to be retained by the Parish at its office for a period of no less than 4 years.

The Faith and Morals clause is included in the License Agreement to ensure compliance with the Church’s Canon law, compatibility with the teachings of the Catholic Faith, and to maintain the integrity of the Parish property. Parishes are expected to emphasize the importance of this clause to every potential third party renter, and to discuss the proposed event/use of the premises with this clause in mind. In the event of potential incompatibility between the purpose of the event, or the nature of the group seeking to use the premises, and the practices or teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, the Parish should, in most cases and subject to exceptional circumstances¹, first explore with the applicant the source of the

¹ In some instances, the proposed event, or event holder, will be obviously unacceptable due to a marked incompatibility with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Examples may include: events/groups that promote hatred or violence (KKK), anti-Catholic or anti-religious organizations (atheist groups, Satanists), events/groups whose purpose is to advocate for causes that are directly contrary to Catholic teachings (abortion access, assisted suicide, polygamy/polyandry). In those situations, the Chancery office should still be notified; however rejection of

inconsistency and ways that the event may be modified to address the inconsistency. Not all potential applicants will be Catholic, or fully informed of Catholic practices/teachings, and it may be necessary to explain the nature of the conflict. At all times, applicants should be treated with respect and compassion. Parishes should, wherever possible, engage in constructive dialogue with the applicant regarding their proposed use of the space, identify and explain any concerns regarding potential non-compliance with the Faith and Morals clause and explore possible options for addressing the non-compliance. At any stage in this process, the Parish is encouraged to consult with the Chancery Office at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre and to consult other applicable guidelines, such as the RCAF Guidelines for interactions with the LGBTQ2+ community.

Before concluding or communicating that an event or proposed application should not be approved due to non-compliance with the Faith and Morals clause, the Parish should first consult with the Chancery Office. By then, the Parish should have collected sufficient information about the event to inform their preliminary assessment concerning non-compliance, which can be conveyed to the Chancery Office. If the Parish has considered or proposed modifications to the event to address the inconsistency, then the results of those discussions should also be conveyed to the Chancery.

The final decision regarding approval or rejection of an application based on non-compliance should be reached jointly by the Parish and a representative from the Chancery. If the Chancery deems it appropriate, it may propose a joint meeting with the applicant to gather further information about the inconsistency and explore options to address it.

the application will be straightforward. Other than in obvious cases, a Parish should be careful about reaching a quick conclusion without further dialogue and consultation with the renter.

General Guidelines for Engaging with and Welcoming Members of the LGBTQ2+ Community

In all engagement with members of the LGBTQ2+ Community, the Archdiocese and all of its Parishes should be guided by the principles set out in the Archdiocese's Statement of Commitment, issued on June __, 2022 (the "Statement"). The Statement includes a call to action to address the impacts of past actions of Catholic institutions which, rooted in fear, have led to members of the LGBTQ2+ community feeling rejected, isolated and hurt. As set out in the call to action:

When Catholic teachings on moral issues arise that others may not accept, we commit to answering questions with patience, honesty and gentleness, free of arrogance or prejudice. When our communities interact, there is never any excuse for disrespectful encounters, poor listening, or lack of sensitivity to one another.

The Archdiocese has committed to being more welcoming to the LGBTQ2+ community, and to engaging in further efforts to improve and foster relationships with members of the LGBTQ2+ community. Parishes are an essential part of achieving this objective. This call to action goes beyond requiring that, on those occasions the Parish is approached by members or representatives of the LGBTQ+ community, the Parish's interactions are guided by respect, love and dignity. It also encourages Parishes to take proactive steps to engage with members of their local LGBTQ2+ community. Parishes should explore opportunities for outreach as well as collaboration with their local LGBTQ2+ community. In doing so, the Parish must always ensure that its actions and statements, and the use of its property, are consistent with Catholic teachings on faith and morals. Parishes are encouraged to consult with the Chancery office in respect of proposed events or initiatives.

On an annual basis, the Archdiocese will collect information from the local parishes regarding their efforts to engage and collaborate with their local LGBTQ2+ community, in order to monitor the success of these initiatives, and identify further opportunities for growth.