



Should our congregation have a written use agreement for occasional use of the property?

Congregations as part of their ministry often allow nonprofit organizations use of their premises for weekly meetings. Some examples are 12-step groups and volunteer youth activities such as scouting. It is important to have a written agreement which sets forth the relationship and obligations of the third party use of the congregation's property.

These use agreements are not a lease or full blown rental agreement. Use agreements are not appropriate for a regular tenant who leases the building several days a week or for a lease to a for-profit organization. If a third party is leasing the church education building for a five-day-a-week day care, there needs to be a longer lease prepared by legal counsel.

A Sample Use Agreement provides specific understandings of use, requires that the user have insurance and agrees to indemnify the congregation for claims or damages.

SEE RESOURCE: [Sample Third Party Use Agreement](#)

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