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Trespasser Policy

NCLL Sample

Sample Trespasser Policy:

Although the general public is invited to all the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the pastor, (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board), be treated as a trespasser.

Additional guidelines/suggestions for implementing a trespasser policy:

- If a disruption in church services/scheduled event, etc., is anticipated, the ministry should notify law enforcement ahead of time.
- Protestors have an absolute legal right to peacefully protest on public sidewalks outside the church or ministry. Under such circumstances, consider offering protestors water, coffee, donuts, etc., as a witness to the community; however, this should only be done if the protestors are acting peacefully.
- Trespass charges may only be brought if protestors come onto the church's private property or if the protest is not peaceful.
- Persons who become disruptive should be asked to leave the property and police should be notified/called if such persons refuse. Have a plan in place for how to manage the congregation or other large group if the disruption occurs during a church service or other official function (e.g., plan to have the music director lead the congregation in singing until police arrive and resolve the situation)
- It is up to the ministry whether to allow known or potential disruptors to enter the ministry property and only to treat them as trespassers if they actually become disruptive.