

Pioneer Valley Church of Christ

Solicitation Policy (160516)

11.0 Solicitation Policy

11.01.01 Purpose

Provide guidance regarding members and guests (hereafter in the Policy, “members and guests” will be “attendees”) and attendees’ children soliciting business, charitable donations, and/or funds from other attendees during regular assemblies of the church.

11.01.02 Policy

Pioneer Valley Church of Christ (PVCC) prohibits attendees from the solicitation of business and of charitable donations (other than PVCC- and HOPE*worldwide*-sanctioned fundraising) during regular assemblies (specifically, Sunday worship service and midweek service, including before and after the structured portion of the service). The Policy further prohibits the solicitation of funds during regular assemblies by an individual or by groups of individuals to obtain finances required to participate in a HOPE*worldwide* mission trip or in a church-sponsored camp.

Attendees initiating a PVCC- or HOPE*worldwide*-sanctioned fundraising effort shall provide the details of the proposal to the Board of Directors President or Secretary for review and approval at least 30 days prior to the proposed date. The proposal shall include the following information:

- Fund which is being supported by the event
- Description of how the request to attendees will be made (i.e., announcements, signage, etc.)
- Dates and duration of the fundraising effort
- Description of how the raised funds will be managed prior to turning in to Treasurer (including the name of the member handling the raised funds)
- Name of the contact person for the effort
- Other information requested by the Board of Directors

11.01.03 Background

PVCC endeavors to promote an atmosphere for its assemblies that encourages spiritual focus and fellowship without unnecessary distractions. While it is recognized that the informalities and practicalities of meeting as a spiritual family are convenient opportunities to engage one another on many levels, PVCC leadership desires to protect the assemblies from non-church matters. The enforcement of this Policy is an effort to that end.

11.01.04 Definitions

- Solicitation – During regular assemblies, the public announcing of and one-on-one offers to engage in business arrangements or to request charitable donations for organizations or causes other than PVCC- and HOPE*worldwide*-sanctioned fundraising. The Leadership Team and/or Board of Directors may designate a location within the church building to display business and/or fundraising solicitations.

- Business – The providing of goods and services. Many attendees may be employed to provide goods and services that other attendees seek.

- Charitable donations – Fundraising for schools, clubs, and various causes. This includes the selling of items in support of a fundraising effort.

-PVCC-sanctioned fundraising – Includes fundraising to support an existing church budget fund or category. Examples of such a category are: special contribution or vision fund; youth and family fund; benevolence fund.

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11.01.05 Qualifiers

-The Policy is not intended to impede or limit an attendee from providing goods and services to other attendees.

-The Policy does not prohibit attendees from conversing, with mutual consent, about a business arrangement at an assembly.

-The Policy does not prohibit the displaying of goods and services offers in a designated (by the Leadership Team and/or the Board of Directors) location within the church building.

-The Policy does not prohibit the solicitation of funds for PVCC- and HOPE*worldwide*-sanctioned charitable efforts. Note that fundraising by an individual or by groups of individuals to obtain finances to participate in a HOPE*worldwide* mission trip or church-sponsored camp is prohibited.

-The Policy does not prohibit announcements or solicitations from organizations with which PVCC or HOPE*worldwide* have Leadership Team- and/or Board of Directors-approved relationships (e.g., City of Chicopee, Valley Blue Sox, or Lorraine's Soup Kitchen).

-The Policy does not prohibit the displaying of charitable donation offers in a designated (by the Leadership Team and/or the Board of Directors) location within the church building.

-The Policy does not prohibit attendees and children of attendees from soliciting charitable donations from attendees outside of church assemblies.

-The Policy does not prohibit written solicitation announcements distributed in church newsletters, by e-mail, etc.

11.01.06 Training

The Policy will be reviewed with PVCC members initially at the annual meeting and, thereafter, as deemed necessary.

11.01.07 Variances

Requests for variances to the Policy must be submitted to and reviewed by the Leadership Team of the church. Prior to approving a variance which has a financial component, the Leadership Team must obtain the consent of an officer of the Board of Directors.