

Christ Covenant Church Photo and Video Policy

Christ Covenant Church values the opportunity to share the life and ministry of our church family through photographs and video. Images help us celebrate what God is doing in our congregation, communicate about church ministries and events, and invite others into the life of Christ Covenant Church.

At the same time, we recognize the importance of respecting the privacy and safety of individuals and families, particularly children. The following policy provides guidelines for the taking and use of photographs and video at Christ Covenant Church.

General Photo and Video Policy

Christ Covenant Church may take photographs or record video during worship services, Sunday School, ministry programs, special events, activities, and other church gatherings.

These photographs and videos may be used by Christ Covenant Church for ministry and communication purposes, including:

- The Christ Covenant Church website
- Church social media accounts
- Church emails and newsletters
- Printed church publications and promotional materials
- Ministry presentations, slides, and displays
- Other official Christ Covenant Church communications

Only authorized Christ Covenant Church staff members may publish photographs or videos through official church communication channels.

Christ Covenant Church will make reasonable efforts to ensure that photographs and videos are used appropriately and respectfully.

Children and Youth

Christ Covenant Church recognizes the special responsibility involved in photographing children and youth.

Parents or legal guardians may request that photographs or videos of their child not be used in Christ Covenant Church publications, promotional materials, website, social media, or other communications.

Families who do not want their child's image used should notify Christ Covenant Church according to the church's established opt-out procedure.

When a child has been designated as **not approved** for photography or video, Christ Covenant Church staff and ministry volunteers will make reasonable efforts to avoid taking or publishing identifiable photographs or videos of that child.

However, children may occasionally appear incidentally in photographs or videos of large groups, crowds, worship services, performances, or other public church gatherings. In these circumstances, the child will not be individually identified by name or other personal information.

Identifying Children

Christ Covenant Church will use care when identifying children in photographs or videos.

As a general practice:

- Children's full names will not be published with photographs without appropriate permission.
- Personal information about children, such as addresses, schools, schedules, or other identifying information, will not be included.
- Photographs will not be tagged with children's personal social media accounts by Christ Covenant Church.
- Images that could reasonably compromise a child's privacy, safety, or dignity will not be published.

Taking Photographs and Video

Church staff, volunteers, parents, and attendees may take photographs during church activities when appropriate. However, the taking of photographs or video should never interfere with worship, ministry activities, classroom instruction, or the safety and supervision of children.

Photographs and videos taken specifically for official Christ Covenant Church use should be taken by staff members or individuals authorized by church staff.

Individuals taking personal photographs or videos are expected to respect the privacy wishes of other individuals and families.

Publication and Social Media

Only authorized Christ Covenant Church staff members may publish photographs or videos on behalf of Christ Covenant Church.

Volunteers should not post photographs or videos of children participating in Christ Covenant Church ministries on personal social media accounts unless they have permission from the child's parent or legal guardian.

Photographs or videos taken as part of a ministry assignment should be submitted to the appropriate Christ Covenant Church staff member rather than posted independently.

Live Streaming and Public Events

Christ Covenant Church may livestream or record worship services, programs, concerts, presentations, and other church events.

Because these events may involve large groups or public gatherings, individuals attending may appear incidentally in livestreams, recordings, or photographs.

Christ Covenant Church will make reasonable efforts to communicate when an event is being livestreamed or recorded.

Photo and Video Opt-Out

Parents or legal guardians who do not want their child photographed or recorded for Christ Covenant Church communications may submit a photo/video opt-out request located online at <https://christcovenant.org/photo-video-opt-out-form/>.

Once an opt-out request has been received, Christ Covenant Church will make reasonable efforts to ensure that identifiable photographs or videos of that child are not published.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to update the church if their preference changes.

Because of the nature of large church gatherings, Christ Covenant Church cannot guarantee that an individual will never appear incidentally in the background of a photograph, livestream, or video. When an individual who has opted out appears incidentally in a large-group or crowd image, the church will not identify that individual by name or other personal information.

Questions or Concerns

Anyone with questions or concerns regarding a photograph or video used by Christ Covenant Church should contact the church.

If a parent, guardian, or individual requests that a specific photograph or video be removed from a Christ Covenant Church-controlled website, social media account, or publication, church staff will review the request and, when reasonably possible, remove or discontinue use of the image.

Purpose of This Policy

The purpose of this policy is to allow Christ Covenant Church to faithfully document and share the life of our church while respecting the privacy, safety, and preferences of the individuals and families we serve.

Christ Covenant Church reserves the right to update this policy as ministry practices, technology, and communication platforms change.

