

## APPENDIX 4.3

### **CHARITABLE GAMING POLICY**

The Proclamation and Special Events Committee, on behalf of Grace Council, may approve a limited number of requests for events which include “soft” charitable gaming as defined in this policy.

#### **Definitions**

This policy defines charitable gaming as a form of gambling where all profits are given to a charitable cause or organization. Gambling occurs when a person takes the chance of losing money or belongings, and when winning or losing is decided mostly by chance. So-called “hard” and “soft” gambling lie on a continuum of potential risks, stakes, and losses. Soft gaming limits the potential money lost by any one individual.

This policy defines soft charitable gaming as the following approved activities:

- Raffles and Draws: the selling of tickets for a chance to win a prize.
- Quarter Auctions: the raffling of items based on bids in increments of quarters (0.25¢).
- Bingos: the selling of bingo cards to participate in a chance to win a prize.
- Other: other proposed soft gaming that may be recommended by the Proclamation and Special Events Committee for approval by Grace Council.

This policy prohibits the following forms of gambling:

- Casino games: e.g., craps, dice, slot machines, roulette, keno, blackjack, poker, etc.
- Lotteries: scratch tickets, pull-tab tickets, 50/50 draws, tombola, etc.
- Betting Games: card games, mah-jong, dominoes, sports, or games of skill such as golf or pool
- Other: other proposed forms of gambling that may be identified by the Proclamation and Special Events Committee.

#### **Limits and exclusions**

This policy document is subject to the following limits, exclusions and principles.

Regulations. The above approved soft gaming activities may be, from time to time, subject to and limited by municipal, provincial, or federal regulation. The Proclamation and Special Events Committee will apply current regulations to their consideration of requests.

External Groups. This policy applies to all groups using the building, including rentals and sponsored partner groups.

Off-Site. This policy applies to Grace-sponsored events held inside and outside the building, insofar as it is reasonable to monitor off-site activities.

Non-betting. This policy does not apply to the above activities when participants do not risk loss of money. For example, the following activities are not subject to this policy: casino-type games and card games with non-monetary stakes; events with door prizes not tied to the cost of admission to the event; auctions or silent auctions. The Proclamation and Special Events Committee can clarify these examples as necessary.

Chips and Credits. The use of chips, credits, tickets, or other substitutes with a cash value are considered gaming and are subject to this policy. For example, purchasing chips for use in a quarter auction.

Event Focus. Soft gaming may not be the primary purpose of an event. For example, a fundraising bazaar may include a raffle in addition to food sales and children’s activities. The gaming component must be a component of the larger event. For example, a quarter auction event must include food sales and other activities promoting social interaction.

Event Duration. The gaming component of an event must begin and end during its host event. For example: stakes may not be cumulative over multiple events; events may not include pre- and post- event betting or ticket sales.

Sunday Sabbath. The advertising, promotion, sale, and execution of the gaming component of an event may not occur on Sunday. For example, a fund-raising bazaar may be promoted during Sunday worship, but the raffle tickets for the event's gaming component may not be sold on the Sunday.

### **Problem Gambling<sup>1</sup>**

While gaming may be viewed as a low-cost social activity, where the motive for gaming is pleasure rather than gain, Grace United Church recognizes that, for some people, gambling may become a serious problem that affects all aspects of their lives. Compulsive gamblers cannot control the impulse to gamble, even when it hurts self or others. The United Church Observer suggests that "In the church's view, gambling exploits the vulnerable, feeds addictions, increases economic inequality and reinforces a vision of a society made of winners and losers."<sup>2</sup> Grace United Church strives to limit potential harm and be a safe place for all, including those who may be affected by problem gambling. To this end, the frequency of events, prize limits and stake limits should be considered.

### **Procedures**

The Proclamation and Special Events Committee shall develop and administer an application and approval process that applies this policy and its principles, while stewarding our strategic objectives of being an inclusive, intergenerational, community partner. The Proclamation and Special Events Committee will monitor the administrative process to avoid creating an undue burden on office staff and an ethical conflict for Pastoral Team members.

1. Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario: <https://www.problemgambling.ca/>
2. United Church Observer: [http://www.ucobserver.org/features/2013/09/big\\_gamble/](http://www.ucobserver.org/features/2013/09/big_gamble/)