

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: TALL OAKS AS A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY 501.c.3 NONPROFIT CORPORATION

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO TALL OAKS AND OUR REGION?

Tall Oaks, as most know, has been more than just a place where our Disciples children and youth go for summer church camp or where our congregations may bring their leaders for planning sessions or retreats. It has been and is increasingly more so a place where differently abled children youth and adults come to learn and build confidence. It is also a place where students in schools and universities engage in experiential learning and build teamwork.

Fewer than forty percent of the income for Tall Oaks operational budget comes from use fees from Disciples of Christ. The rest comes from the fees paid by others that we get to serve on this sacred ground.

As a wholly owned subsidiary corporation, Tall Oaks staff and a board of directors can make and act upon important operations decisions at the speed demanded by this very competitive hospitality industry.

Our smaller Regional ministry staff will not be involved in decisions about hiring, purchasing, or budgeting and so will get to focus more on work with congregations and leaders.

The spirit of Tall Oaks will continue to be informed by Disciples values like demonstrating true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice. It is still one of our most important missions and our sacred trust.

WILL MY CHILDREN STILL BE ABLE TO GO TO CAMP?

Yes! Our summer church camp ministry and other church related events still provide opportunities for encountering God in the beauty of creation and in the experience of a safe, supportive, Christ-focused community. We are blessed with outstanding adult volunteers who want to continue making summer church camp available for all our children and youth.

WILL THIS CHANGE THE WAY WE REGISTER FOR CAMP?

Probably not much if at all this year. The software used to register campers last year is being used this year. Of course, we are always looking for better ways to eliminate registration problems and make the process easier and more effective in the future.

WILL THIS MAKE CAMP FEES TO GO UP?

Camp fees will always need to reflect the actual cost to Tall Oaks to provide the great service and accommodations that our campers, counselors, and parents have come to expect. Every year the costs that Tall Oaks pays for goods and services follow price trends in the market place. As a result, slight increases are inevitable, but no large increases are anticipated. One way we can continue to make repairs, replace what is worn or outdated, or add to our accommodations without large increases in user fees is through the generosity of donors and the great support of our annual GALA event ([November 9th this year-save the date!](#)). A reclassified status as a wholly owned subsidiary 501.c.3 public benefit corporation may make it possible for Tall Oaks to compete for sponsorships and grants that are currently unavailable to exclusively religious organizations.

WILL OUR REGION STILL OWN TALL OAKS?

Yes. The key difference is not ownership but operation. Preschools owned by congregations often have separate, specially trained staff and boards with church and community members who have experience and skill sets in the field of early childhood education.

Tall Oaks will have a board appointed by our Regional Board. Our Region will retain ownership of Tall Oaks. We are just going to put the operations and some of the long-range planning into the hands of more people who are better equipped to make Tall Oaks function, grow, and compete for the privilege of hosting a growing number of people for closer encounters with God in the beauty of Creation and community.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Tall Oaks Commission Co-chairs [Kristin Dow](#) and [Suzi Goldt](#) are happy to take your questions. To send an email to either of them, click on their names.