



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT

807 South Point Rd. / Belmont, NC 28012
Office: 704-825-2106 / www.fumcbelmont.org

INDOOR GROUP MEETING POLICY

The safety of all our members and guests is our overriding priority. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues we are monitoring the situation closely and following the guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, local health authorities, and the directions given to us by the Bishop of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. In order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and reduce the potential risk of exposure at First UMC (FUMC), we are asking that all participants covenant to the following before coming to our campus for an indoor small group function.

1. The Group must be planned in advance and approved on the FUMC church calendar. Reservations must be submitted online a minimum of 5 business days in advance of the event.
2. The Group meeting should be held to one hour or less.
3. The Group can meet indoors in approved spaces as the individual space allows. Multiple groups can meet simultaneously as long as they remain in their designated spaces.
4. Temperatures will be checked for all indoor gatherings. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher may not attend an event/meeting. Thermometers are located on the table in the Carpenter Hall entry table, youth house and in the Narthex.
5. The Group leader must communicate requirements to all participants prior to the group meeting, so that everyone is fully informed. (For example, you may choose to email this document to all participants.)
6. Approved spaces for group use: Carpenter Hall (25), Old Fellowship Hall (15), Youth House (15), Route 66 Classroom (8), Wanderer's Classroom (8), Carpenter Hall Classroom (6), Prayer Garden (10). This number includes volunteers, leaders, and participants.
7. Participants are to enter and exit according to the space being utilized. Access to these spaces are:
 1. Carpenter Hall (enter and exit via side door near parking lot)
 2. Old Fellowship Hall (enter and exit via far-left door on Sanctuary side of building)
 3. Youth House (enter and exit via back door)
 4. Route 66 classroom (enter and exit via far-left narthex door)
 5. Wanderer's Classroom (enter and exit via door from breezeway)
 6. Carpenter Hall Classroom (enter and exit via double doors from breezeway)
 7. Prayer Garden (enter and exit through the Day Care Exterior Hallway Door)
8. The Group leader should plan to arrive early enough, to prop the door open so that he or she is the only person to touch the door handle. Participants should all enter and exit from the opened door.
9. Participants are asked to bring their own chairs or use the chairs provided in the space. The Group leader is responsible for sanitizing and cleaning all provided chairs that were used at the conclusion of the meeting.

10. Participants must agree to stay in the group meeting space. Restrooms are only to be used in an emergency situation. Rest rooms are available in the designated area for your group space. High touch point areas in the restrooms should immediately be wiped down and sanitized by the individual when used. The church office should also be informed of any bathroom usage.
11. Participants are asked to sanitize their hands upon arrival and regularly throughout the event. Sanitizing stations will be located at each entrance noted above.
12. Participants agree to practice social distancing at all times (remaining 6 feet apart) throughout the event.
13. Participants over the age of 3 are required to wear a mask or face covering.
14. The Group leader must complete an attendance roster indicating the names and a contact number for all participants. If the participant is a minor, the parent/guardian must also be listed.
15. By listing one's name on the attendance roster, each individual or the individual's parent/guardian agrees to abide by the above requirements and also affirms that:
 1. During the last 14 days, the individual has not had and is not presently experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, new loss of taste or smell, new onset of head or muscle ache, nausea, diarrhea or vomiting.
 2. In the past 14 days, the individual has not been in close proximity to someone experiencing the above symptoms or has not been around someone who is under investigation for or tested positive for COVID-19.
 3. Per CDC recommendations, we ask that if you test positive within 48 hours of attending an event at FUMC Belmont, please tell your close contacts that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. By letting close contacts know they may have been exposed to COVID-19, you are helping to ensure we do no harm.
16. The Group leader is responsible for submitting the attendance roster to the FUMC office within 48 hours after the conclusion of the meeting. Digital reporting is preferred to reduce contact.
17. The Group leader is responsible for making sure all spaces used by the group (chairs, rest rooms, door handle, etc.) are cleaned and properly sanitized at the conclusion of the meeting. Acceptable cleaners have been purchased by First UMC and can be found in the approved meeting spaces and rest rooms. All indoor surfaces must be cleaned using the provided cleaners.
18. At this time, no food should be served or shared during these gatherings (i.e. no picnics, coffee hour, potluck, snack suppers). Prepackaged, individual servings of food items may be given out, provided they are served with proper hand sanitization and gloves. Ministries that include food preparation require the use of gloves, masks, and proper sanitation before and after.
19. The Group leader is responsible for collecting any trash, placing it in the outdoor trash bins near the CDC entrance at the conclusion of the meeting.
20. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the Group no longer being able to meet at FUMC.

Revised 10-19-2020

