

OUTDOOR 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 outdoor 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 five business days in advance of the event.
2. The Group meeting should be held to one hour or less.
3. The Group can meet outdoors with 50 or less in attendance. This number includes volunteers, leaders, and participants. Multiple groups can meet simultaneously as long as they remain in their designated spaces.
4. Temperature checks at outdoor gatherings are at the event leader's discretion.
5. Approved spaces for group use:
 - a. FUMC Upper Parking Lot
 - b. Picnic Shelter/Field
 - c. Grassy Area Along South Point Road
 - d. Field Behind Youth House
 - e. Scout Lodge
6. In the event of inclement weather, the group is responsible for making decisions about meeting and for rescheduling with the FUMC church calendar.
7. 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.)
8. Participants must agree to stay outside.
9. Participants are asked to sanitize their hands upon arrival and regularly throughout the event. Groups are responsible for providing their own sanitizer.
10. Participants agree to practice social distancing at all times (remaining 6 feet apart) throughout the event.
11. Participants over the age of 3 are required to wear a mask or face covering.
12. 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.

13. 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:
 - a. 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, the new loss of taste or smell, new onset of head or muscle ache, nausea, diarrhea or vomiting.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
14. The Group leader is responsible for submitting the attendance roster to the FUMC office within 24 hours of the group meeting. Digital reporting is preferred to reduce contact.
15. The Group leader is responsible for making sure all spaces used by the group are cleaned and properly sanitized at the conclusion of the meeting. An acceptable cleaner on any outdoor surface would be soap and water. Frequently touched surfaces must also be disinfected with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19. Outside groups are responsible for providing their own cleaner and disinfectant.
16. The Group leader is responsible for bringing a trash bag, collecting all trash, and placing it in the outdoor trash containers near the Day Care Entrance at the conclusion of the meeting.
17. 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. (i.e. Weekend Backpack Food Program)
18. The church playground is available upon request. However, playground equipment is not being sanitized and use of the playground is at the individual's own risk.
19. Failure to comply with these guidelines and any other previously agreed upon may result in the group no longer being able to meet at FUMC.

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