



First United Methodist Church

CHURCH COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION FOR OUTDOOR GATHERINGS

(for use with small group gatherings, classes, youth/children's group)

Dear Church Leaders,

As we are "Taking Steps Forward Faithfully and Safely" in our churches, it is absolutely critical the guidelines and requirements we have issued be widely communicated, well understood, and complied with each and every one of our churches. Staff and leaders are responsible for ensuring that all guidelines are followed by attendees, participants, and volunteers.

We therefore ask you to covenant to the following:

- We have received, read, and understand the guidelines and requirements issued by Bishop Taylor with respect to outdoor gatherings.
- We understand compliance with these requirements is a life and death matter and must be taken extremely seriously.
- We will implement the required measures needed to ensure a safe environment in all spaces where members, outside groups and staff may be present.
- If we encounter obstacles to implementing these measures, we will prioritize safety over in-person gatherings and will immediately consult with the District Superintendent for advice.
- We will promptly report any new outbreaks of COVID-19 within the congregation, outside groups, and staff to the local health department and District Superintendent.
- We have reviewed the "Protocol for Planning and Preparation: Outdoor Gatherings."
- We will complete the "Outdoor Gathering Checklist" for each in-person event we host and keep the checklist on file in the church office.

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| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Pastor | Date | Staff – Sr. High | Date |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Pastor, Associate | Date | Staff – Jr. High | Date |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Trustee Chair | Date | Staff – Children | Date |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Church Council Chair | Date | Staff – Worship | Date |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Date | Staff – Outreach | Date |



First United Methodist Church

PROTOCOL FOR PLANNING AND PREPARATION: OUTDOOR GATHERINGS *(for use with small group gatherings, classes, youth/children's group)*

Outdoor gatherings are permitted as long as proper social distancing is established and maintained at all times. The District Superintendent will review the plan for these services, based on the guidelines listed below and then give permission for such gatherings. In the opinion of some medical personnel, the outdoor gathering may be the better alternative because it allows for wider spacing. The following guidelines must be used:

- Determine the space needed for the gathering that will accommodate proper social distancing.
- Develop a method to record attendance and a protocol for notifying the local health department and attendees if someone in attendance tests positive for COVID-19. If a positive case is confirmed, the church must contact their District Superintendent to discuss next steps.
- Use of lawn chairs or blankets on the ground during an outdoor gathering are allowed as long as social distancing between households is followed.
- Make sure noise levels are kept to a minimum and be respectful of any neighbors.
- Participants older than two years of age must wear face masks or coverings.
- Group singing is not allowed.
- Gloves and masks must be worn when setting up and tearing down equipment.
- Sharing of food is allowed if the food is pre-packaged (manufactured), prepared and packaged (sack lunch), or served by limited people with masks and gloves. No potlucks or self-serve meals.
- Church transportation may be used if drivers and riders use sanitizer before boarding vehicles and wear masks during the entire ride. Also, occupants should not exceed vehicle capacity.
- Use of indoor facilities should be limited.
- Persons exhibiting any signs of illness must not participate in any way in the outdoor gatherings. Persons who are sick must stay home.