



CAMPUS GUEST POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a compassionate, respectful, and safe environment for both the congregation and homeless individuals who may seek shelter or assistance on the church campus. It is rooted in our calling as followers of Jesus to serve all people with dignity and grace while ensuring the well-being and security of our community. In addition, there are existing city civil codes prohibiting unhoused people from camping/sleeping/staying overnight/urinating/defecating. (CMC 9.05.040, 9.05.050, 9.05.070)

2. Guiding Principles

- **Compassion:** All actions and interactions with homeless individuals will be guided by compassion, understanding, and respect.
- **Safety:** The safety and security of all persons on church property, including church members, staff, leaseholders and their clients, and homeless individuals, is of paramount importance.
- **Dignity:** Every individual, regardless of their housing situation, will be treated with dignity and respect.
- **Support:** The church will actively seek to connect homeless individuals with appropriate social services and resources to address their needs through the county program 211.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals who are on the church campus, including but not limited to, congregation members, staff, volunteers, and individuals experiencing homelessness.

4. Guidelines for Engagement

1. Welcome and Initial Contact:

- a. If a person is not following 5: Use Of Church Facilities below, staff or designated volunteers will greet homeless individuals kindly and respectfully.
- b. An assessment will be made to understand the individual's immediate needs (e.g. rest, food, shelter, medical assistance).
- c. Staff or designated volunteers will direct the person to an appropriate place or time they can be on campus or refer them to 211.

5. Use of Church Facilities:

2. Individuals are welcome to use designated areas on the campus during specified times and areas as long as they follow church rules and guidelines.
 - a. **Lower Level:** lower parking lot, field, east and west sides of church.
 - i. People may walk through these areas during school hours but may not linger.
 - b. **Middle Level:** middle parking lot, areas around fellowship hall and office.
 - i. People are welcome to be here during daylight hours or during church authorized events.
 - c. **Upper Level:** upper parking lot, areas around garage, cell tower, luther hall parsonage
 - Only authorized individuals are allowed
 - Those needing overflow parking for special events are authorized.

- Overnight stays on church property are not allowed unless part of a sanctioned program approved by church leadership.
- Sleeping in vehicles on church property is generally prohibited unless part of a church approved initiative.
 - Sleeping in vehicles may be authorized on a case by case basis by the council and pastor.
- Dawn to Dusk: The church campus is open for the public (keeping in mind all of the above).
- Dusk till Dawn: The church campus is open only for those who are authorized or part of an authorized event.
- All cars parked in the parking lots must meet all 4 requirements to park here.
 - 1. Have express permission from the Church Office (925) 682-8410.
 - 2. Be parked properly.
 - 3. Be in good working order.
 - 4. Have current registration.
- Vehicles parked overnight (unless authorized) will be placarded with a tow notice” within 24 hours, and towed on or after 72 hours (three days)

6. Provision of Services:

- The church may provide limited services such as meals or hygiene kits.
- Any authorized person, using the guiding principles above and at their discretion, is encouraged to let campus visitors use our restrooms during the day and during church authorized events.
- The church will direct people to social service referrals through 211.

7. Behavioral Expectations:

- All individuals on church property are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful to others and the environment.
- Illegal substance use, aggressive behavior, or any form of harassment will not be tolerated.
- Individuals will not sleep on the ground or block any doors with their body or items.
 - Volunteers will point individuals to the numerous benches on the middle level around the campus.
- Trash must be put in proper receptacles.
- Urinating and defecating must be done only in restrooms.
- Individuals who do not adhere to these behavioral expectations will be asked to leave the property.

8. Support and Referrals:

- The church will refer people to 211 for local shelters, other food banks, and support services
- In cases of medical emergencies or mental health crises, appropriate emergency services will be contacted immediately.

9. Ongoing Communication:

- Feedback from the congregation and community will be encouraged to improve the policy and address any concerns.

10. Enforcement and Review

- Church staff and designated volunteers are responsible for enforcing this policy in a manner consistent with its guiding principles.
- Pastor Jeremy will designate alternate church representatives to placard unauthorized vehicles and authorize towing on days that he is not on campus.

- Violent or repeat offenders will be documented in the church database (titled; “Campus Issues” and located on the church council shared Google Drive) and incidents reported to church council each month.
- The policy will be reviewed as needed to adapt to changing circumstances or feedback from the church community.

11. Conclusion

This policy is a reflection of our commitment to being a place of refuge and support for those in need while ensuring the safety and well-being of the entire church community. Through this policy, we aim to live out our faith by extending Christ’s love and care to all.