

Communications/Social Networking Policies and Guidelines

At Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus (Faith Church), we live and share the miracle of God's grace through sermons, music, prayers, and the sharing of the sacraments. Faith Church is a loving congregation with a heart of love for God's people. It is out of our love for God and one another, that we have enacted these policies and guidelines so that all of our communications are loving. Our hope is to make our communications and our corner of the Internet a place where we share the miracle of God's grace. Therefore, the following policies reflect our desire that all who encounter Faith Church (its communications and social network) find a safe, reliable and non-threatening space.

Communications Policy

Any communication NOT sponsored by Faith Church, Lehigh Presbytery, Synod of the Trinity or the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) must first be approved by the appropriate committee chair before it can be advertised. This includes publicity in print, posted on wall/bulletin boards, or electronic media. It is the responsibility of the publications editor/compiler to obtain permission for any publicity needing approval. For postings on walls/bulletin boards needing approval, the responsibility lies with the appropriate committee chair. (Approved by the Session of Faith Church in August, 2011).

Terms and Conditions for Social Networking

Today's technology is being used by churches to connect with people and to promote outreach and other church programs. Social networking tools are designed for easy mass communication and media sharing. Faith Church believes that communication and outreach can be enhanced and expanded through an Internet presence via a Website and a Social Networking Facebook Page/Group.

To guide the interactions of social media communications, a policy must be in place to maintain appropriate monitoring and management of these social networking media. The purpose of the social networking policy for Faith Church is to allow members and users to interact, communicate and connect and to foster community within clearly defined parameters related to rights, privileges, legal compliance and copyright.

Social Media include the various online technology tools that enable people to communicate and share information and resources via the Internet. Social Media may include, but are not limited to, text, audio, video, images, podcasts, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and other multimedia communications.

Social Networking is the process and practice of individuals, businesses, and other types of organizations interacting with each other through common websites and specialized areas within those websites for the purpose of sharing, gaining, disseminating and discussing all manner of information.

Communications must be posted in your own name. Communications that are written anonymously will not be posted.

Communications must be respectful toward others. Communications that are obscene, defamatory, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing, abusive, hateful, ridiculing or embarrassing to others will not be posted.

Communications that are copyrighted will not be posted without express permission of the author(s).

Communications that advertise, solicit, market or promote any business or commercial interest, chain letters or pyramid schemes will not be posted.

Posts made to the social media networks of Faith Church express the views of the individual author and not those of Faith Church.

A Media Release form should be obtained from adults and from guardians of minor children who will or may participate in activities that may be photographed or videotaped for distribution on a social media network of Faith Church.

Photos that are posted on a social media network of Faith Church should not include the name or contact information for minor children. Photos should not include the name or contact information for adults unless the adult has given permission for such information to be published.

Information posted on a Faith Church social media network that includes any activity or language which indicates that a minor is being severely harmed by a youth or adult, considering doing severe harm to him/herself; or severely harming others will be reported to the appropriate authority.

This policy may be updated and modified at any time. Users will be apprised of any changes to the policy.

Users who do not comply with these policies will be banned from posting on social media networks of Faith Church.

Terms and Conditions for Facebook

The following definitions apply to these terms and conditions and disclaimer notice. “You” or “User” means the person accessing this website and accepting these terms and conditions. “Faith Church” means Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus.

Users of the Faith Church Facebook Page or Group agree to the following: You will write under your own name only;

You will not attack fellow members of Faith Church. You may disagree with Faith Church and its officers, provided your tone is respectful and you do not resort to personal attacks;

You will not disclose any sensitive, proprietary, confidential, or financial information about Faith Church, other than what is publicly available;

Should you comment on other churches or organizations, you will do so respectfully without ridiculing, defaming, or libeling them in any way;

You will not post any material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing, abusive, hateful, embarrassing or otherwise harmful to another person or entity; and

You will not post advertisements, solicitations and/or market and/or promote any business or commercial interest, chain letters, or pyramid schemes.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed are the opinions of the participating user. Faith Church acts only as a passive conduit for the online distribution and publication of the user-submitted materials; content and/or links and expressly DOES NOT endorse any user-submitted material, content and/or links or assume any liability for any actions of the participating user.

Adopted by Session: November 10, 2015