

EAST OHIO CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Covenant of Parsonage and Property

We, the undersigned, do agree that our first and foremost concern is to agree to respect the persons and congregation entering into this covenantal relationship. Both the congregation and the pastoral family are in ministry together.

The Congregation covenants to provide and care for the parsonage family with the same Christian concerns that they would with their own families.

The Local Parsonage Committee and the Parsonage family should determine the specifics regarding terms and items generally made within this text.

The parsonage family covenants to be good stewards of the house and grounds provided for them by the congregation of _____ charge.

The congregation will use as its measure the East Ohio Conference parsonage standards as found on 8-9 through page 8-11 of *The 2021 EOC Journal* and pages 764-767 (§ 2544) of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* as their frame and reference.

The parsonage family agrees to accept responsibility for the daily care and cleaning as well as minor maintenance of the parsonage. Lawn care and snow removal shall be the responsibility of the parsonage family and local congregation to negotiate.

Both parties do agree to the following:

1. There shall be a regular inspection of the parsonage. They shall be conducted semi-annually unless care issues need to be addressed. The parsonage family shall be given an advance notice of two (2) weeks.
2. The purpose of these inspections is to avoid any potential problems, maintenance and prevention. Repair schedule may be set at this time. If there are repairs, they shall be done within a reasonable time period, but less than thirty (30) days, unless an unforeseen problem arises.
3. The responsibility for any damage to the dwelling or grounds other than that of natural disaster or normal wear and tear will be that of the parsonage family. Any cost incurred for these repairs or replacement shall be that of the parsonage family.
4. Pets: The parsonage family agrees to:
 - A) List the number and type of pets prior to moving into the dwelling. (see below)
 - B) Assume responsibility to keep all pets under control at all times.
 - C) Assume responsibility to keep all pet(s) restrained within the limits of pet type and property boundaries when inside or outside of dwelling. If tethered, concern should be given to digging, animal waste, and wear to the grass.
 - D) Assume responsibility not to leave pet(s) unattended for any unreasonable period of time (unreasonable shall be determined by mutual consent of both parties).
 - E) Assume responsibility to dispose of animal waste in a proper and timely fashion.
 - F) Assume responsibility to take care when food and water are left outside so as to not draw varmints.
 - G) Pet(s) should at no time become an annoyance or discomfort to others. There may be those within the congregation that either have allergies or are for whatever reason made uncomfortable by animal(s). Outside annoyances: barking and howling must be remedied immediately. Local laws will be the guide for the disposition of these problems.

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- H) Pet offspring must be removed within eight (8) weeks of birth or could be kept if prior agreement by both parties has been made.
 - I) Payment should take place immediately for any damage or loss experienced caused by pet(s). The pastoral family may be asked to pay an additional pet cleaning deposit prior to occupancy. The determination of this sum shall be made by the local property committee.
 - J) The term damages can be defined, but not restricted to: scratching, or marking of woodwork, door or window sill, walls, floors, or ceilings, soiling or stains to carpet, or urine odors.
5. The District Superintendent shall become the final arbitrator of any irreconcilable difference.
The District Superintendent's decision shall be final.

By checking this box, the parsonage family acknowledges the following pets are on the church property. Please provide the type/breed, name, age or any other necessary information.

Pastor

Date

District Superintendent

Date

Congregation Representative

Date