

Outdoor Group Meeting

Effective September 15, 2020 until further notice

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 Aldersgate UMC (AUMC), we are asking that all participants agree to the following before coming to our campus for an outdoor small group function. **This policy applies only to adult groups. A separate policy is written for children's and youth meetings.**

1. The Group must be planned in advance and approved on the AUMC church calendar. Call the church office to make a reservation.
2. The Group can meet outdoors with 50 or less in attendance. This number includes volunteers, leaders, participants, and any children who may be with parents.
3. In the event of inclement weather, the group is responsible for rescheduling with the AUMC calendar.
4. The Group meeting should be held to one hour or less.
5. 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.)
6. Participants must agree to stay outside. Use only outside bathrooms (Oxford Building), and only in case of an emergency. The church office should also be informed of any bathroom usage so that a follow-up cleaning can happen after the event.
7. Participants are asked to sanitize their hands upon arrival and regularly throughout the event. Groups are responsible for providing their own sanitizer.
8. Participants agree to practice social distancing at all times (remain 6 feet apart) throughout the event.
9. Participants are strongly encouraged to wear a mask or face covering. Participants must supply their own mask.
10. 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. 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, 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.

- 11.** 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. CDC has a comprehensive list. Outside groups are responsible for providing their own cleaner and disinfectant.
- 12.** The Group leader is responsible for bringing a trash bag, collecting all trash and placing it in the outdoor dumpster at the conclusion of the meeting.
- 13.** The Group leader is responsible for submitting the attendance roster to the AUMC office within 48 hours of the group meeting.
- 14.** During this time, no food should be served or shared during these gatherings.
- 15.** Failure to comply with these guidelines and any other previously agreed upon guidelines may result in the group no longer being able to meet at AUMC.
- 16.** Participants must bring their own equipment (chairs, tables, etc.)

Affirmed by Church Council Vote on September 14, 2020