

COVENANT BETWEEN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF OCALA AND FUMC PRESCHOOL AND DAY CARE

First United Methodist Church of Ocala is a dedicated group of followers of Jesus Christ who seek to honor God through worship, evangelism, missions and service, as a congregation of the greater United Methodist Church.

In the United Methodist Church service of infant baptism, we recognize the sacredness of each person from birth and our responsibility to nurture each child in the faith. In proclaiming that sacredness and recognizing each child as a child of God, we in the church carry a commitment to help enable people to live life in the fullness that Jesus proclaimed.

One of the important extension ministries of FUMC Ocala is the FUMC Preschool and Day Care. We believe childcare and early childhood education are valid expressions of our commitment to the Christian faith and through the particular ministries for young children, we extend the nurturing ministry of the church to children, families, and our community.

Through the FUMC Preschool and Day Care, FUMC Ocala seeks to offer to the community a quality Christian preschool in which children can be cared for in a safe, healthy, positive, loving atmosphere. The school and church is committed to the developmental needs of young children in all areas: physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual – in a continuous, interrelated process.

In order to fulfill this ministry, we establish this covenant between FUMC OCALA and FUMC Preschool and Day Care.

To fulfill this covenant, the church will provide the following:

- Prayer support for the preschool and its staff
- A structurally sound building capable of meeting the needs of the preschool
- Access and financial support for utilities
- Access and financial support for janitorial services
- Adequate off road parking for staff and parents
- Adequate space for playgrounds
- Co-operative sharing of space
- Positive publicity
- Periodic recognition of staff
- A preschool Board with representatives from the preschool staff, parents, church members, Finance, and Church Council
- Access to medical insurance through the Florida Annual Conference for all employees working at least a 40 hour week
- Access to pension programs sponsored by the United Methodist Church
- Support in the preparation of payroll and budgeting provided by the FUMC Finance Committee.
- A Finance Committee member will be a Preschool Board Member
- Annual Financial and Program Audit conducted by designated member of the Preschool Board
- Inclusion in the church's liability insurance coverage

To fulfill this covenant, the Preschool will provide the following:

- Prayer support for the church
- First preference for enrollment for members of the church
- A program that reflects and supports the mission of the church, including weekly chapel services
- A program that is based and run on Christian principles
- A per cent of financial support for janitorial services, when revenues have increased enough to sustain such support, based on annual auditing
- Quarterly financial reports to FUMC Finance Committee
- A representative to the following church committees:
 - o Preschool Board
 - o Church Council
 - o Finance when requested
 - o SPRC when requested
 - o Trustees when requested
- Attendance by the Director at Church Staff Meetings
- Positive publicity regarding the church and church activities
- Participation in church activities when practicable
- Co-operative sharing of space

The Preschool shall be licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families. The preschool shall seek and obtain accreditation by the United Methodist Association of Pre-Schools (UMAPS), Florida Conference.

The Preschool shall ensure that every employee and volunteer of the Preschool shall be properly screened under state and UMAPS guidelines. All program directors and/or assistants shall be interviewed by the Senior Pastor, members of the SPRC, and members of the Preschool Board. A summary of Lead teachers' qualifications shall be given to the Preschool Board as soon as possible.

The Preschool Board will provide for an annual review of the FUMC Preschool and Day Care which will include finance, curriculum, the involvement of the congregation with the program, pastoral availability to families and staff of childcare, safe and clean buildings and equipment, and the highest quality in staff and staff support.

The Director of the FUMC Preschool and Day Care shall also be the supervisor of the summer camp and any other ancillary program adopted by the Preschool. That supervision includes maintaining high quality, financially responsible programs in keeping with the church's mission. Representatives of those programs shall be included on the Preschool Board at the Director's request.

This covenant shall be subject to review and amendment at the first Church Council Meeting of each calendar year.

By action of the Church Council of First United Methodist Church of Ocala, this covenant is approved and ratified.

Signature of Senior Pastor

Date

Signature of Church Council Chair

Date

Signature of Preschool and Day Care Director

Date

Signature of Preschool Board Chair

Date