Little River United Church of Christ COVID Policy

Preface

The Little River United Church of Christ (LRUCC) COVID Policy is designed to provide guidance in the areas of building use, office operations, building management, and cleaning. It serves as an addendum to LRUCC’s Building Use Policy and Employee Handbook with respect to COVID-related requirements and policies and applies to all church activities including those activities carried out at church-related events by church members, church staff, and others using church facilities.

The intent of the COVID policy is to promote the health and welfare of the LRUCC Community and the broader community of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the metropolitan Washington, DC area in which LRUCC resides. The fundamental principle of the COVID policy is to ensure that the activities of LRUCC comply and align with guidance issued by relevant health authorities including the Fairfax County Health Department, the Virginia State Health Commission, Executive Orders of the Governor of Virginia, and the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

LRUCC’s COVID policy will be provided to all church members and church staff and will be provided to all persons seeking permission to use church facilities. Specific questions relating to the policy and its implementation should be directed to the Board of Trustees and the Senior Pastor. Church pastors and staff are empowered to ensure that persons engaged in activities subject to this policy are aware of and follow the policy. Anyone observing infringements of its requirements shall report these facts to Church pastors or staff. Corrective measures can include being asked to leave and/or forfeit of any building use fees.

Policies

1. The church shall post notices at the major entrances to the church, including posting the Health Screening Checklist provided in the annex to this policy, detailing requirements for admittance.

2. All persons seeking to enter the Church building are expected to sign in to record their presence in the building and must be able to satisfactorily answer the questions on the Health Screening Checklist provided in the annex to this policy prior to entering every day on which they seek entry. The checklist shall be kept up to date with any travel restrictions imposed by Virginia health officials. This includes pastors and church staff reporting for work in the church building.

3. All persons inside the church building shall observe masking requirements imposed by state and local officials applicable to churches and businesses. Unless the wearing of masks is specifically recommended against in guidance from health officials, this policy requires the wearing of suitable masks inside the church building. This includes pastors and church staff working in the church building. (A list of current masking rules shall be posted inside the front entrance of the church)

4. All persons on church property shall socially distance by maintaining a minimum six-foot distance between people who do not reside together. This includes pastors and church staff working in the church building.
5. Time spent in the church building shall be limited in accordance with guidance from health authorities and time limits shall be provided for events held on church property and in the church building and communicated to all those attending such events.

6. The number of people approved to use any space in the church will be modified to address health and safety requirements resulting from COVID issued by health officials including social distancing. The Board of Trustees shall maintain and update specific capacity limits on different areas of the church facility.

7. Individuals entering the church outside of scheduled events should be sure to follow the policies 1-6 above, sign in using the sign-in sheet by the entrance, and clean surfaces such as chairs and tables that they touch or use for a period of time.

8. Those using the church buildings for events will not serve food or drink, and will clean and disinfect areas of the church they occupy and items that are handled using approved cleaning supplies, including but not limited to such items as tables, chairs, railings, door handles, and items of church property handled as part of the event. Event organizers should let the church office know if they need access to church cleaning and disinfecting supplies and equipment.

9. Approval for building use may be limited to events sponsored by church organizations, church members, church sponsored Scouting Groups, and church staff at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. (Event/Group Leader/Sponsor is responsible for ensuring that all participants know the restrictions regarding which rooms and spaces they are allowed to use, example: Just the Jubilee Room the downstairs bathroom(s) and hallways). Entering and using other parts of the building may result in the loss of use of the building or forfeiture of event fees.

10. Groups using the church building should collect and retain the names of those attending their event for purposes of contact tracing. The name and contact information for the primary Point of Contact (POC) should be on file with the church office.

11. Rates for the use of church facilities and other church property may be increased by the Board of Trustees to reflect additional cleaning expenses resulting from COVID.
Health Screening Checklist

to be completed daily by persons seeking admittance to the LRUCC church building

Do Not Enter the Church Building if any of the responses are ‘YES’

HAVE YOU HAD ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

Feeling feverish and/or having chills – documented temperature of 100.4°F or higher?

Has there been any use of fever reducing medication within the last 24 hours?

A new cough that is not due to another health condition?

Nasal congestion or runny nose?

New shortness of breath or difficulty breathing that is not due to another health condition?

New chills that are not due to another health condition?

A new sore throat that is not due to another health condition?

New muscle aches that are not due to another health condition, or that may have been caused by a specific activity (such as physical exercise)?

Fatigue (more tired than usual)?

Headache?

A new loss of taste or smell?

Abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting?

New onset of poor appetite or poor feeding?

Have you had a positive test for the virus that causes COVID-19 disease within the past 10 days?

Were you recently tested for COVID-19 because you were sick and are still waiting for the lab results?

In the past 14 days, have you had close contact (within about 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?