

COUNCIL POLICIES

(Date indicates the establishment or last amendment of the policy)

1. **Non-mandated Committee Membership:** (February 10, 2009) Committee membership shall expire when the new chairperson is installed. [E.Kuhn/W.Bushman]
2. **Children in the Nursery:** (March 18, 2013) The Nursery shall have two persons whenever possible supervising the children. [W. Bushman/P. Liles]
3. **Smoking:** (May 14, 2009) There will be no smoking by anyone at anytime, anywhere in the church building. [W. Bushman/D.Kuhn]
4. **Guidelines for Fund Raising in the Church:** (September 11, 2007)
 - The Biblical teaching and practice of stewardship asks us to support the Lord's work in proportionate monetary giving "as the Lord has prospered us." Voluntary giving by the church members remains the primary method of financing congregational activities.
 - When we speak of stewardship of time and talents, it is recognized that there are times when a member should be encouraged to use his/her talents to help others of the church rather than selling the items that they make. The church needs to establish such outlets through Stewardship, or Fellowship, or WELCA. Examples: provide clothing for children in need, curtains for the Sunday School, make crafts for Mill Neck Manor, refinish or build furniture for the church, embroider baptismal napkins, etc...
 - The purpose of any fund raising event should be submitted not less than one month prior to the event and be approved by the Congregational Council. The Council has the right to restrict all fund raising efforts which appear contrary to the total ministry of the church.
 - Whenever possible, fund raising efforts should be group activities which help promote fellowship among members so engaged. For example: recycling projects can raise funds for groups even as they teach members and the community ways by which members may care for God's creation.
 - Fund raising efforts are not acceptable when the church is simply making a profit as a "middle man" for some commercial endeavor. (e.g. selling candy bars or renting space to a commercial group.)
 - If a business firm states that a discount from purchases will be forwarded to the church (e.g. supermarket tapes or soup labels, etc.) and this is known to members of the congregation, these may be redeemed. The congregation must take care, however, to avoid the appearance of promoting one business over another.
 - Games of chance have no place in the life of a congregation. These games send adverse messages regarding the value of giving and financial stewardship. [D. Kuhn/K. Farmer]

5. **Memorial Gifts:** (July 20, 1999)

Undesignated gifts will be placed in the undesignated gifts memorial fund.

Designated gifts: Any person desirous of giving a designated memorial gift, either money or otherwise, shall be advised that the church council will be made aware of the givers' intent. The council will make a decision if the gift in question can be appropriately used. If not, an alternative suggestion will be offered to the memorial gift giver with an explanation of why the original gift cannot be used. Exception: A designated memorial gift given to an existing fund or project will be accepted upon receipt. Example: organ fund, landscaping fund, etc.) [W. Bushman/K. Walsh]

6. **Sandpiper Articles:** (July 20, 1999) The church newsletter "The Sandpiper" will not be used as an avenue of grievance. Any church member having a grievance will be encouraged to speak to Pastor for counseling. If not settled, the member will be advised to bring the grievance before the Church Council. [D. Kuhn/D. Bushman]

7. **New Members:** (September 11, 2007) The names and addresses of new members will be given to the Congregational Council. The Secretary of the Council will in turn send a letter of welcome to the new member(s). [W. Bushman/D. Bushman]

8. **Transferring Members:** (February 10, 2009) The names and addresses of members who are transferring out of our congregation will be brought before the Congregation Council. The Secretary of the Council will subsequently send a letter to the member in thanks giving for the years of fellowship and with wishes for their continued walk in their journey of faith. Whenever possible, an exit interview should be offered by the Vice President, as chairperson of the Pastor/Parish Relations committee, to anyone leaving the congregation. [E. Kuhn/H. Gibson]

9. **Bequests to the Congregation:** (March 10, 2009) In the event of a bequest to the Congregation, the secretary of the Council will acknowledge it via the Sandpiper. [J. Holl/E.Kuhn]

10. **Alcohol on Church Property:** (March 18, 2013) Consumption of alcoholic beverages will be allowed on church property. Alcohol must be approved and supervised by the by the Congregation Council. [B. Entress/C. Rios]