

Model Tobacco-Free Policy For Faith-Based Organizations

Purpose Statement

According to the U.S. Surgeon General's Report of 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency of 1992, the South Carolina Clean Indoor Air Act of 1990, and the Federal Pro-Children Act of 1994, tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke (environmental tobacco smoke) are hazardous to the health of human beings. As a faith-based institution/group, we are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our congregational members and community residents. We recognize that tobacco in any form is a major cause of preventable disease and death in this state and country. It also has been acknowledged as a fire hazard. Thus, smoking is prohibited in this facility, its vehicles and at any of its sponsored events and functions on or off its property, by all people (pastors, employees, members, visitors, contractors, delivery drivers, etc.).

Goals

The goals of this policy are to provide a safe, healthy environment for our congregational members, employees, visitors, and community residents. These goals will be achieved through efforts designed to:

- Exhibit model smoke-free behavior for our youth and adults;
- Eliminate exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS)
- Provide information on and/or promote smoking cessation programs for those in need;
- Reduce fire hazards

Procedures

As a faith-based institution, we will:

- Prohibit tobacco use in or on any of the grounds of the institution, and vehicles.
- Prohibit tobacco use within 25 feet of all entrances, windows and exits.
- Prohibit tobacco use except in specific designated locations.

As a faith-based group, we will:

- Prohibit tobacco use at meetings, conferences or any sponsored program activities
- Support the prohibition of tobacco use by sponsoring tobacco-related educational sessions.
- Educate all group members regarding the harm of tobacco use.

Enforcement

As a faith-based institution/group, we will be responsible for enforcing this policy and determining the appropriate sanctions for violations of the policy.

Education and Assistance

As a faith-based institution/group, we will be responsible for providing support, educational sessions and materials, and referrals for cessation services.

Tobacco Industry Marketing or Sponsorship

As a faith-based institution/group, we will not accept any sponsorship from any tobacco-related producers or marketers. In addition, we will not allow tobacco advertising on gear or other paraphernalia at any function/activity.