

Model Tobacco-Free Policy for Faith-Based Organizations

Purpose

According to the U.S. Surgeon General's Report of 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency of 1992, the South Carolina Clean Indoor Act of 1990, and the Federal Pro-Children Act of 1994, tobacco use and exposure to secondhand 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 has also been acknowledged as a fire hazard.

Thus, the use of all tobacco-containing or tobacco-derived products, smokeless tobacco (snuff, chewing tobacco, dip, snus), e-cigarettes, and other tobacco or non-FDA-approved cessation products are prohibited. It does not apply to nicotine replacement therapy products (gum, patch, lozenge, inhaler), which help tobacco users with cessation efforts.

The tobacco-free policy applies to everyone (pastors, employees, members, visitors, contractors, delivery drivers, etc.) at all times (with no exemptions).

Goals

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

- Exhibit model tobacco-free behavior for our youth and adults;
- Eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) and vaping toxins;
- Provide information on and/or promote smoking and vaping 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 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.