

5.) STATE OF THE CHURCH:

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Clark's Grove United Methodist Church is quite involved in Missions and Outreach. Listed below are some of the town Festivals we've attended, and some of the upcoming events we have planned.

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK, we distributed over 100 clear book bags (based on school specifications) filled with various types of school supplies.

SHAMOKIN WARMS MY HEART, we gave out snack bags filled with Hershey's "hugs & kisses," labeled,

"HUGS & KISSES, JESUS LOVES YOU."

OASIS FESTIVAL, where we distributed rulers with the "Golden Rule" on each ruler.

Another upcoming festival, we will be attending and distributing much needed socks. Socks of all sizes have been donated by the congregation.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS is an upcoming festival, which we will be attending. We have pens with the church's name and number engraved on them to give away.

We make MATS FOR THE HOMELESS throughout the year, using plastic grocery bags, which are cut and looped then crocheted. (700-800 bags are needed per mat). Dozens of mats have been distributed to a local homeless shelters throughout Shamokin and surrounding areas.

HAVEN MINISTRIES, a local homeless shelter, that we support was invited to give a presentation on their mission.

We made cookies then packaged them in decorative boxes. They were distributed to the homeless at the shelter to enjoy. Our future plans are to host a dinner at the church for the needy at Haven Ministries.

FEED THE CHILDREN project; We worked with the local school district, We went into the school and provided a meal for the children during an 8 week period. It was a very rewarding experience for us, as well as the children and teachers. It included prayer time and devotion. This was very well received by parents and children alike. The children even took prayers along home to be said at meal time.

We held a Community YARD SALE in the church parking lot. Neighbors were invited to set up their items at our facility. They were thrilled to be able to use our parking lot. Money raised from the yard sale went to help cover the cost of the back packs for back to school.

CONTINUED ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CHURCH:

MEMORIAL DAY is a huge celebration, which is held at Clark's Grove. We have a guest speaker and we are lucky to have wonderful musicians to accompany the hymns, soloists and play Patriotic Selections. It is a very well attended activity within the community.

We do a BLESSING OF THE BACK PACKS, where are Children, Youth and teachers are invited to bring their back packs to church to have them blessed before returning to school.

A CHURCH PICNIC is held each year. This year were are having a "Pot Luck" dinner for our social gathering.

We developed a CHURCH DIRECTORY where we printed the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of all church members and regular attendees.

Clark's Grove participates in Community LENTEN SERVICES, which rotate throughout the local Methodist Churches.

Our Worship Services are live streamed on FACE BOOK each Sunday and available on our YouTube channel for viewing anytime. We are also able to provide services during inclement weather via YouTube.

During the summer, worship services were taken beyond the 4 walls and were held outside, which adds more variety. It is a very relaxed atmosphere, where folks bring lawn chairs, or sit on blankets. Attire is very casual with shorts and flip flops.

Special Services are held for Christmas, including a children's program, Easter and various holidays.

A Chicken Bar-B-Que is held, as a fund raiser for the church. We usually sell approximately 700 platters and the money earned helps in our outreach and mission.

We have a YOUTH GROUP, who meet on a Sunday evenings during the school year. They play the Hand Bells/Chimes for Christmas, Easter and special worship services. We have a Sunday School geared to Adults and Children. Bible Study is held weekly, throughout the year and it is led by the Pastor and congregational leaders.

Various SEMINARS are held for discussion. Eg. LGBTQAI seminar; Guest speaker, Rev. Dan Siddle, shared his wisdom and knowledge on what the Scriptures say about this controversial subject.

PASTOR: With God's help I...

...continue to meet monthly with my mentor, Rev. Dan Siddle.

...visit home bound, and give pastoral care to the sick, the hospitalized and those in nursing homes.

...provide visitation and support during the loss of loved ones.

...also offer counseling on an as needed basis.

...attend seminars or Zoom classes, as offered for continuing education.

...have completed Local Licensing Pastor's School, and I am now finalizing with my mentor, the remaining requirements to obtain my license. I then plan to continue with C.O.S.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (blessed by my Mentor) is offered the 1<sup>st</sup>. Sun. of the month and I offer Home Communion, as needed. I share the Word of God in a way, that the congregation can relate/apply to their lives.

## Clark's Grove United Methodist Church Safe Sanctuaries Policy

The Clark's Grove UMC sincerely regrets the necessity of formally stating the inappropriate, unacceptable and sinful nature of any and all forms of sexual abuse, misconduct, and harassment.

For the purposes of Clark's Grove UMC, all unwelcome sexual comments, contact and/or innuendo is considered offensive and unacceptable. All parties who engage in such behavior shall be informed of the unwelcome nature of their activity and requested to stop. If the behavior does not cease; the appropriate authorities, the pastor, and/or the appropriate personnel of the Clark's Grove UMC shall take action, as they deem appropriate, provided that such action does not permit the offensive behavior to continue.

If the pastor is involved in any form of sexual harassment, misconduct and/or abuse; (for either minors or adults) the victim, witness, or person receiving the report shall contact the I-Care Team (Beverly T. Andrews (215) 836-2452, (215) 260-3304 and the District Superintendent. In the case of minors they shall also contact the state police and the Northumberland County Children & Youth Services (570) 988-4237. **Do not confront the pastor before the authorities have responded.**

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT** is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance of creating a intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.<sup>1</sup>

Victims of sexual harassment should contact the pastor immediately. If the pastor is involved in the situation, see paragraph 3.

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT** is any form of sexual contact, comment, or innuendo that is in conflict with the biblical and United Methodist statements on sexual activity. Briefly stated the biblical and UM stand is that sex is appropriate and blessed inside of marriage; it is not appropriate outside of marriage.

Officers, leaders, teachers, etc. of the Clark's Grove United Methodist Church who are involved in sexual misconduct shall be asked to step down from their positions, until such time as they have ceased such behavior and asked God's forgiveness of their sin.

Information concerning sexual misconduct shall be presented to the pastor. If the pastor is involved in the situation, see paragraph 3.

**SEXUAL ABUSE** is any form of sexual contact, comment or innuendo that includes the implicit or explicit use of power to force, coerce, or reward the complicity or silence of the victim. Sexual advances by an adult to a minor are abusive by definition.

All forms of sexual abuse shall be reported to the pastor. If the pastor is involved in the situation, see paragraph 3.

In the case of minors, immediately contact the state police (570) 286-5601 and the Northumberland County Children & Youth Services (570) 988-4237. **Do not confront the abuser before the authorities have responded.**

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<sup>1</sup> Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

**PROTECTING PEOPLE** is the purpose of this policy. Therefore this policy will be made available to all persons at Clark's Grove. Also, the Youth Event Guidelines will be upheld for all Youth Events. The Guidelines will be annually signed and dated by all Youth Event Leaders, Assistants, Helpers, etc.

The following regulations are offered: A) To protect youth from abuse at Clark's Grove UMC events, B) to reduce the chance that a volunteer will be accused of misconduct, C) to provide evidence that there was no misconduct, and D) to protect the other participants at Clark's Grove UMC from charges of negligence if a worker is accused of misconduct. For this purpose we stipulate the following:

1. All Youth Event Leaders will have been active participants in the life of Clark's Grove UMC for at least one year. (Assistants, helpers, etc. are exempt if they are teamed with a leader who meets the requirements.)
2. All Youth Event Leaders will be at least five years older than the participants in the program. (Assistants, helpers, etc. are exempt if they are teamed with a leader who meets the requirements.)
3. All Youth Event Leaders will have Criminal Records Checks and Child Abuse Clearances no less recent than 10 years. (Assistants, helpers, etc. are exempt if they are teamed with a leader who meets the requirements.)
4. All Youth Event Leaders will participate in the Clark's Grove UMC annual Youth Leadership Training Event. (Assistants, helpers, etc. are exempt if they are teamed with a leader who meets the requirements.)
5. All Youth Event Leaders, Assistants, Helpers, etc. will read and sign the following event requirements:
  - a. Have enough staff for the event. At least one two-worker team should be in each area of activity.
  - b. All workers need to be in teams of at least two. **NO WORKER SHOULD BE WORKING ALONE! Always have at least two workers within eyesight and easy voice communication with each other.**
  - c. Assistants, Helpers, etc. who do not meet the requirements listed above will be teamed with a Leaders who does meet those requirements.
  - d. View the event in the terms of the youth who will be participating and prepare for likely developments.
  - e. Think through the event and make sure we have what we need. Check the equipment and facilities for safety.
  - f. Be prepared for emergencies (First Aid Kit, staff with appropriate training, telephone, etc.)
  - g. Everything that seems odd or out of place needs to be reported to a person in charge of the Event.
  - h. Workers should not be talking with other adults when they are supposed to be chaperoning the youth.
  - i. Event Leaders are responsible for both youth and workers: stay focused during the Event.
  - j. Touching youth (hugs) should only happen with another worker immediately present.
  - k. Any suspected misconduct must be immediately reported to the person in charge of the Event, and any likely misconduct must be reported to the appropriate officials (Police, Children & Youth Agency, etc.) This includes any witnessed abuse of a child, even by a parent.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_