

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Expectations for Hospitality through Safety & Security Norms

In baptism we vow—with the help of God—to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being. In a way that is uniquely our own, we at St. Paul's embody the hospitality of Christ, bringing to life as a community that which we as individuals have already confirmed. To ensure this hospitality honors God and promotes safety and security for everyone, we establish and enforce the following norms.

- **ALL OUTDOOR SPACES** – With regard to our outdoor spaces, we respect the laws of the City of Seattle governing public spaces by prohibiting the use or possession of illegal drugs, the consumption of alcohol or the possession of open containers of alcohol, the use of marijuana, and the smoking of cigarettes within 25 feet of any entrance or vent. When alcohol is being served outdoors at a church-sanctioned event, a perimeter fence is required, and all alcohol must be consumed within the fenced area in much the same way that beer gardens are set up during street fairs or festivals. Except for those who are tending to the grounds, we avoid entering the flower beds where broken glass and hypodermic needles have occasionally been found. Overnight camping or the stowage of personal belongings is not allowed.
- **PARKING LOT** – Smoking of tobacco products is permitted only in the parking lot and with the provision that the appropriate distance from entrances is respected and that used cigarettes are fully extinguished and properly disposed.
- **CENTENNIAL GARDEN** – We prioritize use of the Centennial Garden—its labyrinth, water fountain, trees, and other features—for the recreational enjoyment of all people anytime during open hours that it is not already in use for a church-sanctioned event. Open hours for this garden are from dawn to dusk daily. To promote a sense of community, our parishioners may find themselves engaging socially with guests, and we encourage them to do so.
- **BOLSTER GARDEN** – This is a sacred burial space wherein are laid to rest our beloved friends and family. To preserve this space for meditation and personal reflection, the gate is always closed and locked. Please ask our office personnel for access during office hours.
- **SAINT FIACRE GARDEN** – The wheelchair ramp and bicycle rack at the bottom are designed to allow people with various degrees of mobility to fully participate in church-sanctioned events. If parishioners see someone having difficulty with stairs or hear someone expressing a desire to reduce carbon emissions by biking to events, those parishioners are encouraged to spread the word about our accessible facilities.
- **EDUCATION WING** – For the safety of our children, and to nurture a quiet and healthy learning environment, we allow only those people who have completed the appropriate training and actively serve in children's programs beyond the steps to the education wing on Sunday mornings between 8:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. and Sunday evenings from 4:45 until 6:15, except to access the women's restroom or to gather the children for joining the liturgical community for Holy Eucharist.

We who, as St. Benedict says, strive to treat others “as if they were Christ,” desire to enforce these norms without escalating tension. Directly making a polite request of an offending party to correct his/her/their behavior is acceptable for anyone. However, if an observer does not feel comfortable making such a direct request, informing a community leader—such as a member of the parish staff, a vestry member, or program leader—of the violation is just as acceptable. Reporting violations to the Seattle Police after such a request is made is part of our responsibility as neighbors and citizens.

The St. Paul's community seeks to live into the reality that we are all part of the neighborhood geographically located on Lower Queen Anne including the Seattle Center arts district and within the City of Seattle. We endeavor to live hospitably with our neighbors, embracing the challenges and privileges of life together in this place.

As a community, we strive to become knowledgeable through various trainings and opportunities of the ways we exclude others who are marginalized and struggling, both inside and outside our walls; and in particular to learn and to practice ‘The Way of Companionship,’ through understanding and using the ideals of hospitality, neighboring, sharing the journey side by side, listening, and accompanying when possible, acknowledging our limits, but ever believing in the agency and dignity of every person.

It is our goal for each member of our parish to feel confident in this call, and to continue learning the reasons for profound disadvantage among our neighbors with the hope of joining together to work for needed change in our world, beginning in our neighborhood.