

2020 Application for Community Garden Space

First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul

In 2013, First Presbyterian Church transformed unused land into an organic garden. Twenty plots are rented to members and neighbors. Master Gardeners use a section to run seed trials for the University of Minnesota and grow veggies for the food shelf. Volunteers use plots to grow veggies for the food shelf and to sell at the Sunday morning Farmer's Market. Last summer, volunteers and Master Gardeners donated 958 pounds of organic veggies and \$786 from the Farmer's Market to the food shelf. Gardeners are responsible for all aspects of maintaining and operating the garden. The success of the garden relies on gardeners donating time and complying with the rules. *Read the FAQ and 2020 Garden Rules carefully before signing application.*

Name(s) _____

Address/City/Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ email: _____

I) Plot size: circle one 10'X15' = \$35 10'X20' = \$45

Renters are allowed one plot initially and more if available. A \$20 damage deposit (in addition to the plot rental fee) is required. The deposit will be refunded when you notify us that you do not want to continue to rent a plot and your plot clean-up is completed. If you rented a plot last year and paid the deposit, your deposit will be carried over to this year so you will not need to pay the deposit again. Financial assistance (partial or full) is available. Contact Julie at 651-459-5607 for info.

II) Please circle one: No experience A little experience Somewhat Skilled Very Skilled

III) What types of flowers/vegetables/fruits/plants do you plan to grow? _____

IV) Each gardener is required to complete service hours as a part of their membership in the garden. This includes the spring work day and fall work day as well as additional maintenance tasks during the gardening season. Gardeners are also required to weed the path around their plot(s) and a section of the fence line. If you are unable to attend the work days, you will be expected to make up the time by completing tasks from the chore list. See the clarifications in Rule 4.

I have read the Community Garden Rules. I hereby agree, for me and all those who help me in my plot, to pay the appropriate fee and abide by the 2020 Garden Rules of the FPC-SSP Community Garden. In signing this, I am stating that I am prepared to meet the physical demands of gardening, perform the required maintenance and meet the responsibilities outlined in the Rules. I understand that failure to do so may result in loss of my deposit and gardening privileges.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Returning Gardener Applications Due: Sunday, Feb. 16th. Application and fee due to FPC-SSP to reserve plot.

FPC-SSP Member Applications Due: Sunday, Feb. 16th. Application and fee due to FPC-SSP to reserve plot.

New Gardeners: Remaining plots will be assigned to new gardeners starting with those on waiting list.

Kick-off Meeting: Sunday April 26th @1PM (Plan to spend 2 hours)

Spring Work Day: Sat., May 9th or 16th rain date

Open House and Garden Tour for Church and Community: Sunday, July 26th

Fall Work Day: Sat., Oct. 10th or 17th rain date

The Steering Committee usually meets the first Sunday of the month. All gardeners are welcome to attend. Please let a Steering Committee member know if you are coming so we can make sure you can get into the church.

Community Garden Waiver and Release must be signed by all adult gardeners. See next page.

Community Garden Waiver and Release for Participants

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING. Participation in the Garden shall be at each participant's own risk. Any and all claims for injury or damages shall be waived as a condition to participation. To the greatest extent allowed by law, even if a waiver is not signed, participation shall be considered to be an agreement to assume all risk and to hold First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul completely harmless therefrom. No security is provided at the Community Garden or on church property.

Parents shall be responsible for watching their children at all times.

I, the undersigned, agree to release, hold harmless, indemnify, and defend the First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul and its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers from and against all damages, claims, demands, suits, and/or actions resulting from my occupancy and/or use of the Community Garden property; such damages may include, but are not limited to, damage to or loss of property or physical injury or death to myself or to any person. I assume all risks and hazards for myself, my guests, and for any minor children in my custody incidental to the conduct of this activity including but not limited to the risk of physical injury attendant therewith. I understand there is no insurance coverage provided for this activity and further understand the acquisition of insurance is my personal responsibility.

I agree to act in a safe, prudent and responsible manner at all times while using the Community Garden and I agree to be respectful of other users and their property.

I have read and understand the application and accept these rules, terms, and conditions stated above for the participation in the Community Garden at FPC-SSP. I understand that this agreement may change as necessary to meet garden rules. The Steering Committee will contact me if a change to these Rules must be made in the middle of the season.

All adult gardeners who will be working in your plot must sign the waiver.

Signed: _____ Date _____

Signed: _____ Date _____

Signed: _____ Date _____

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Please return the application form, the waiver and release form and a check for the rental fee plus the \$20 deposit made out to First Presbyterian Church. Mail or deliver to: First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul, 535 20th Ave. No, So. St. Paul, MN 55075. **Application must include payment. Plots will not be reserved without a completed form and payment.**

Received by: _____ Date _____

1. \$_____ plot fee
2. \$20 deposit (_____ carried over or _____ enclosed)
3. Signed Application Form
4. Signed Waiver and Release Form

2020 Garden Rules

These rules are similar to those in effect in thousands of successful community gardens around the country. They are based upon cooperation, organic gardening practices, teamwork and respect for fellow gardeners. Although the garden is a project of the church's Mission Committee, running the garden is the responsibility of the gardeners. The Steering Committee will handle day-to-day operation, work with the Church and gardeners to define responsibilities and develop policies/bylaws. With everyone's patience, cooperation, and ideas our garden will join the list of successful gardens around the U.S. and Canada.

Please note the important clarifications in the Service Commitment requirements. Having all gardeners help with the maintenance is essential to the survival of the garden. There are no changes in the requirements, just in wording and in enforcement.

1. Agreement and fee.

- A completed and signed Application and Waiver/Release (including payment) is required. By signing and returning the forms, you agree to these rules. A onetime \$20 damage deposit (in addition to the plot rental fee) is required.
- The deposit will be refunded when you notify us that you do not want to continue to rent a plot and your plot clean-up is completed.
- If you rented a plot last year, your deposit will be carried over to this year so you will not need to pay the deposit again.

2. Attending the spring kick-off meeting is required. (Sunday April 26th @ 1:00PM.)

3. Adhere to organic growing practices.

- This is an organic garden. Gardeners will keep insects, pests and diseases under control using only certified organic pesticides and fertilizers.
- A list of approved products and methods will be provided. If unsure about a product, contact the Steering Committee. Use of unapproved materials is grounds for immediate forfeiture of plot, without refund.

4. Service commitment.

- Gardeners are expected to perform service to the garden. This includes attending a required spring and fall work day and six additional volunteer hours throughout the season (about two hours per month).
- An additional two hours of volunteer time will be added for each work day missed (e.g. if you miss one work day, you will be required to complete eight hours of volunteer time).
- Gardeners are also expected to weed the path around their plot(s) and a section(s) along the fence. These tasks DO NOT contribute toward your volunteer hours.
- Failure to fulfill this service commitment will result in being placed on the bottom of the wait list for the following year.

5. Respect other gardeners and the neighbors.

- Act in a manner considerate of the rights, needs, and safety of other gardeners and the community at large and with courtesy toward others.
- No smoking, alcoholic beverages, profane language or loud music.
- Use community equipment and tools responsibly and treat with care. Return to the shed promptly and store them neatly and securely for safety and convenience.
- Do not enter others' plots except with permission or on garden business.
- Pets are not allowed in the garden (except service dogs).

- Children are very welcome in the garden but must be supervised by an adult.

6. Actively garden and maintain your plot.

- Harvest produce in a timely manner.
- Maintain path around your plot. Paths must be kept free of rocks, weeds, and other obstacles, including encroaching or overhanging plants (i.e. vines). The Steering Committee reserves the right to remove materials obstructing any public path at any time. Carpeting, roofing materials, and other inorganic materials are prohibited. Landscaping fabric is allowed if tidy.
- All non-diseased compostable plants must be taken to the compost bins or taken home (not put in trash cans).
- To prevent contamination of the compost bins, certain diseased plants must be taken home.
- Keep garden pests (weeds, insects and diseases) under control. Weeds are considered out of control if they are greater than 6 inches in height, are flowering or are going to seed.
- Plants must not shade other renters' plots. If a gardener complains of excessive shading by anything on your plot, you must come to an agreement or remove it.
- No bushes, shrubs, raspberries, or trees may be planted in any plot.
- Any plot with numerous weeds, weeds going to seed, unharvested or rotting produce or any plot which is not half planted by June 15th will be presumed abandoned and is subject to forfeiture without refund.

7. Minimize water use.

- Overwatering and unattended, running hoses are not allowed. Water hoses must not cross others' plots.
- Sprinklers and drip irrigation are not allowed in rental plots.
- To minimize water use, mulching plants and paths is highly encouraged. (Note: do not use wood chips inside your plot. Consider straw, leaves, and compost which will break down within a year. Landscape fabric is also allowed.)

8. Respect church property.

- Never dump debris or garden materials anywhere else on church property. Please use the compost bins or garbage cans. No fires.
- Do not use motorized vehicles in the garden
- Driving on the grass is not allowed without prior permission from the Steering Committee even if you have a handicapped permit.

9. Transferability.

- You may not transfer or sublet your plot without approval of the Steering Committee.
- The Committee may, at its discretion, choose to approve a one-year leave of absence upon formal written request

10. Donate food to the food shelf.

- One of the goals of the church is to grow food for the food shelf. Although not a requirement, it is hoped that gardeners will donate their excess produce to the food shelf.

11. Communication of absence.

- If you are on vacation or ill and unable to tend to your plot, you must communicate that to the Board and arrange for the care of your plot in your absence. This way, produce will not go to waste, will not rot in your plot and can be harvested for the food shelf if needed.

12. Consequence of Rule Violation. The cooperation of all gardeners is needed to ensure that the Community Garden runs smoothly and that we can maintain our obligations to FPC-SSP, the neighbors and the City.

- If a gardener violates these agreed-upon rules, the Steering Committee will address the violation. The penalty may be forfeiture of the plot with no refund of fee or deposit.

Important 2020 Dates:

February 16	Application deadline for returning gardeners.
February 16	Application deadline for FPC-SSP Members.
February 18	Remaining plots will be available to people on waiting list and then to new applicants.
April 26	Garden Kickoff Meeting, Knox Room at First Presbyterian Church - 1 p.m.
April 19	Last day to cancel application and receive full refund. After this date, only deposit is returned.
May 10 or 17	Spring Work Day tentatively scheduled.
July 26	Open house for church and community 11:00
Oct. 12 or 19	Fall Cleanup tentatively scheduled.

Steering Committee Meetings are usually on First Sundays at 11:30 in Knox Room, FPC-SSP