

Suggested guidelines and a view of parsonage life from an "operational," best practices, well-being and to promote well-being, healthy pastor-parish relations, and stewardship perspectives.



General Commission on the Status and Role of Women The United Methodist Church

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Contents

I. Introduction
Background and Overview
Goals
Invested persons and entities
II. Parsonage Standards4
Overview
General Requirements
Room Sizes
Equipment
Maintenance
Utilities
Pets
Modifications to the Property
In-Home Business
Ethical & Moral Practices
Recommendations
III. Parsonage Furnishings and Furniture (where applicable)
IV. Parsonage Maintenance, A Shared Responsibility10
Upkeep, Records & Inspection
Parsonage Committee
Parsonage Record Book
Inspection Schedule & Sample Forms
Helpful Boundaries
V. Additional Resources & Information15
VI. Forms and Checklists for pastor and parish16

I. Introduction

a. Background and overview

Since the early days of Methodism, churches have provided a home for their appointed ministers. Traditionally, it has been a parsonage – a house adjacent or near the church, owned and maintained by the church, and furnished for the term of the appointment as part of the clergy compensation package.

From the Florida Conference Cabinet 2005 study "Parsonage or Housing Allowance?"

"The itinerant system remains today as central to Methodism as it was in the days of the circuit riders. Nowadays, alongside itinerancy, the Church also expects clergy to become resident pastors and active members of the community in which they serve. With the practice of itinerancy and the expectation of residency United Methodist congregations are expected to provide flexible and appropriate housing for appointed clergy and their families. In order to meet these needs, to care for clergy and their families, and to call men and women to a dedicated ministry, congregations must provide reasonable living conditions either through a parsonage or a housing allowance.

"It is the privilege and responsibility of the members of the congregation to make every effort to provide the physical setting which will give the pastor and his or her family sufficient comfort and convenience so that the energies of the pastor may be more concentrated on their [sic] task and willing service in the Church of God."

Historically perceived advantages for the clergy included:

- » A comfortable residence without the distractions of housing and utility expense, and property maintenance;
- » Close proximity to the workplace, allowing for family time and an economical lunch at home as well as a short, efficient walk to work rather than a time-consuming commute;
- The possibility of living in a nicer home and better neighborhood than might otherwise be affordable; and
- » The freedom to relocate to the next church without the burden of selling the present property and searching for a home in the new location which, depending on the particular house, the duration of the appointment, and the present market conditions, may create financial loss and poor stewardship.

Among the advantages for the church, while not specifically addressed in these guidelines, are the comparatively lower cost of owning and maintaining a sound, well constructed parsonage than paying a housing allowance; and greater freedom to remove clergy from an unworkable clergy-congregation relationship if the clergy have not invested in local property.

However, for some clergy and churches, these benefits are now considered mixed blessings. From a clergy standpoint, relying on, and waiting for, the church to make needed repairs and upgrades to the parsonage can create a "renter" feeling in the family, at best, and feelings of resentment when there is not a shared value on parsonage furnishings and maintenance. In addition, close proximity to the church building can put the entire family experience on display, blur the boundary between ministry/work and family time, and reduce the clergy family's integration in the community at large. The one-size-fits-all parsonage may be more than, or less than, what a clergy family needs. And lack of home ownership translates directly to lack of investment equity for retirement, the pros and cons of which, regardless of any theological implications, might well be considered from an investment standpoint.

From a church standpoint, committing capital, budgeting for ongoing, routine expenses, and utilizing lay leadership to own and maintain an aging parsonage may negatively impact the church. It is also noteworthy that churches are not exempt federal regulations regarding indoor air quality and hazardous materials (such as asbestos, lead-based paint, and mold), and the Americans With Disabilities Act (<u>www.ada.gov</u>), all of which add to the cost of maintaining a parsonage.

There is no one formula that simplifies these considerations for clergy and churches. Although United Methodist Church studies suggest that the present trend is toward supplying a housing allowance, there are many situations in which the parsonage accommodation is more appropriate.

Concerned churches are directed to the additional document on the Clergy Spouse and Families page: Florida "Parsonage or Housing Allowance" paper as a starting point for further reflection. These guidelines focus on parsonages and parsonage life.

b. Goals of these guidelines

These guidelines seek to promote through these recommendations normative standards for parsonage living. It is understood from the outset that standards for accommodation and maintenance vary across the denomination; that this is a collection of best practices gathered annual conferences in the United Methodist Church U.S.A. rather than a policy recommendation, and that any resources that provide a useful model for structure will necessarily be adapted to suit the current and emerging needs of engaged churches.

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women recognizes that, for the time being, the majority of clergy spouses in church ministry are women. These guidelines have been created to meet the needs of both male and female clergy spouses and was borne of the expressed needs of clergy spouses in the –United Methodist Church who were asked in 2008 to describe their experiences living in parsonages. Many detailed an unenviable lack of privacy, feelings of homelessness due to lack of ownership, poor furnishings and poorer living conditions.

Further, there was an expressed overall lack of congregation sympathy to the wear and tear of the moving in and moving out experience itself on clergy families.

Therefore, the following four goals have been identified for the use and application of this Parsonage Handbook.

- Identify effective approaches already in place throughout the United Methodist Church U.S.A. that address clergy spouse issues across the denomination; help eliminate gender-based clergy spouse role bias specific to parsonage life;
- » Identify and promote helpful patterns of communication and relationships within jurisdictions and annual conferences
- Offer a model of expectations and resources for transitions that help standardize clergy family relocation;
- » Suggest systems for excellent care of parsonages and parsonage families

c. Persons and organizations invested in the housing discussion

For the purpose of guidelines, the following stakeholders will be considered integral to all discussions:

- » Pastor and family, both current and future
- » Church and committees
- » Local community
- » United Methodist Church Offices and Officers, such as District committees, Conference Board of Trustees, District Superintendent

For the purpose of these guidelines, the following three groups will be defined as:

- Parsonage Committee Primary group within the church designated to oversee maintenance and improvements to the Parsonage. Schedules and conducts inspections. Reports to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee or Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. Maintains Parsonage Record Book. Membership includes representatives from Staff-Parish, Trustees, and Finance, as well as the pastor and spouse, and at least 3 lay members.
- > Trustees Responsible for conducting work on the parsonage, whether the work is done by themselves, by volunteer church work crews, or by licensed, certified, or otherwise professional laborers contracted to do work for the church. May function under the supervision of the Council on Ministries, Administrative Board, or other governing body of the local church.
- » District Clergy Housing Subcommittee centralized group that oversees all district parsonage acquisition, sale, and maintenance; intermediates pastor-parish parsonage conflicts.

II. Parsonage Standards

The chairperson of the board of trustees or the chairperson of the parsonage committee, if one exists, the chairperson of the committee on pastor-parish relations and the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to ensure proper maintenance. The 2008 Book of Disciple, ¶2532.4

a. Parsonage Standards – Overview

Our thanks to the many annual conferences who have worked faithfully to create, evaluated, adapt, modify parsonage standards, procedures, policies, and checklists. We have benefited and borrowed liberally from their published works, most notably the following annual conferences: CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA – now SUSQUEHANNA, FLORIDA, KANSAS EAST, KANSAS WEST, NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK – now UPPER NEW YORK, OKLAHOMA, OREGON-IDAHO, SOUTH GEORGIA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA, and WEST OHIO.

b. Parsonage Standards: General requirements and good sense

House shall meet all local building, health, and safety codes.

Equipment shall be good quality, dependable, and replaced with energy efficient models when it's time.

Electrical wiring shall meet code (200 amp minimum grounded, with circuit breaker), sufficient for today's electrical needs without overloading any one outlet and risking fire, including GFI outlets in all bathrooms, kitchen, and laundry areas. All installations and upgrades to be performed by licensed electrician.

Railings shall be installed on all indoor and outdoor stairways, and around any porch more than 30 inches from the ground.

Entry door shall have a window or device by which a caller may be observed before door is opened

Locks shall be installed on all doors and windows to reasonably prevent home invasion

There shall be at least one egress window in any basement area used as a bedroom.

Some conferences recommend posting copies of an emergency escape plan being posted conspicuously on each level of the home (at least two on the main floor) for the benefit of the residing family as well as any guests in the home. Include: highlighted exits, emergency phone numbers, outside rendezvous point. Flashlights and batteries should be located near the emergency exit plan.

c. Parsonage Standards: Rooms and sizes

- » Living room or great room
- » Guest closet
- » Dining room or eating area large enough for 8 or more people
- » 3 bedrooms, each with a closet or armoire
- » Kitchen
- » Bathrooms, indoor: Acceptable 1.5, better 2, with available storage in or nearby for linens and supplies; 1 on main living level
- » Indoor laundry area
- » Shelter for 2 vehicles
- » Secure, dry storage area

Note on room sizes. This document does not specify recommended room sizes. While such specifications could be seen as clear guidelines for both church and incoming clergy on what is, and is not, provided, and doing so may be desirable within an Annual Conference, such standards cannot be offered in any denomination-wide advocacy paper. One helpful model is the designated room size ranges used by the Holston (<u>www.holston.org</u>) and the West Ohio (<u>www.westohioumc.org</u>) conferences:

	Minimum square feet	Good	Excellent
Living room	240	280	320
Bedrooms	120	150	210
Dining room	120	150	210
Family room/den	224	255	320
Kitchen	90	140	180
Office/study	80	96	120
Bathrooms	35	50	60

d. Parsonage Standards: Equipment

- » Climate control: heating and air conditioning as necessary for region
- » Bins for recycling and any additional garbage collection for recycled materials. Lawn waste stickers will be supplied by church as needed. Available and required municipal services will vary.

- » Stove with oven
- » Sink and counter workspace
- » Microwave
- » Exhaust fan in each bathroom, per building code
- » Refrigerator with freezer compartment
- » Automatic washing machine and dryer
- » Hot water heater, 40 gallons or more
- » Combination storm windows and screens
- » Whole house fan, window fans, and/or power fan, if needed
- » Fire escape ladder or other provision for upstairs bedrooms
- » TV antenna or basic cable or satellite service paid by church
- » Maintained smoke alarms throughout house, carbon monoxide alarm
- » Current fire extinguishers for kitchen and other required areas. TESTED ANNUALLY, replaced as necessary
- » Vacuum for rugs, carpets, upholstery, drapes
- » If there is no lawn service: gas mower, trimmer or weed eater, rake, shovel, hedge trimmer if needed, garden hoses and sprinklers
- » Water conditioner if needed
- » Sump pump with battery backup, shutters, lightning rod, special roofing, etc. as needed. See "Recommended"
- » Backup generator in areas with frequent, prolonged power outages
- » Annual inspection needed to ensure waterproofing integrity tightness
- » Telephone service with private line. Consider maintaining account in church's name
- » Basic internet service provided
- » Any local library membership fees paid by church
- » Dehumidifier in the basement and/or other high humidity areas
- » Outdoor lighting, preferably with motion sensor
- » At least one, preferably 2, outdoor water spigots, one in front, one in the rear of the house
- » Doorbell at the main entrance

e. Parsonage Standards: Maintenance and services

Recommendation: The church should authorize and conduct a baseline evaluation of property, house and grounds. It is further recommended that this be done by a licensed, professional outside inspector, and updated with a complete audit at least once every ten years.

Regular inspections (annual in some cases, other periodic inspections to be specified and conducted as recommended by the Parsonage Committee and/or the District Clergy Housing Subcommittee) will vary by region and parsonage age. All results, reports, and correction records are to be stored in the Parsonage Record Book. The church pays for all annual and periodic inspections. (See "Checklists" on website.)

- » Radon gas
- » Condition of any exposed asbestos insulation and siding
- » Formaldehyde foam insulation and paneling

- » Condition of exposed, unencapsulated lead-based paint
- » Fungus, mildew, molds
- Water quality. Municipal supply should be free of organic and synthetic pollutants; testing for nitrates, bacteria, and other toxins should be conducted annually on well water. Some sort of water purification system, whether whole house or individual faucets shall be provided as deemed necessary by church and clergy; bottled water shall be provided as necessary
- » Environmental setting, especially if the parsonage is near an old industrial complex, any disposal area, or chemical plant. The local health department should be contacted to obtain educational information, and the results of the baseline and periodic setting inspections by a certified environmental inspector/service provider be kept in the Parsonage Record Book
- » Periodic pest control inspection and treatment to ensure the foundation walls, attic eaves, soffit areas shall be secure to keep out rats, mice, bats, birds, squirrels. Will vary by region and season
- » Periodic inspection and treatment for termites and other insects. Will vary by region and season. Biennial inspection of duct work, cleaning as needed
- » Landscaping should be representative of the neighborhood and included in the annual parsonage inspection
- » Church is responsible for any large, permanent plantings such as trees and shrubs, including major pruning and/or replacement
- » Regular schedule for inside painting, outside painting/tuck pointing
- » Annual hardscape inspection and repairs as needed
- » Annual carpet cleaning
- » Annual fireplace and chimney inspection and cleaning, if they exist
- » Weekly trash collection
- » Annual air conditioner, furnace, and wiring inspection by licensed contractor
- » Replacement insurance coverage for church property, including liability and vandalism provided by church

Recommendation: Like many standard rental procedures and agreements between landlords and renters in communities across the United States, churches may wish to require proof of such renter's insurance to cover the pastor's personal property, including library collection, or a signed waiver of responsibility in case of damage or loss to personal property.

Recommendation: Prayerful and practical consideration should be given to the budget amount set aside for routine parsonage maintenance and for large, predictable expenses for replacement mechanicals and roof. A starting point for consideration may be to two- to two and one-half percent of the replacement value of the parsonage to be set aside annually in an accruing, interest-bearing account.

f. Parsonage Standards: Utilities

Utility costs call for shared stewardship of pastor and parish. For the church's part, every good faith effort should be made to keep costs down with energy efficient installations and upgrades. For the pastor's part, keeping consumption within reasonable expectations, given the age, stage, and number of family members living in the parsonage in any given year, should be a daily act of stewardship. Demonstrating a shared goal of energy efficiency and frugal consumption benefits the family, church, community, and environment.

Depending on the conference by-laws, the local church or churches in a charge are responsible for paying all basic utilities: gas, electric, or fuel oil expenses to heat and cool the parsonage, fuel for a fireplace or woodburning stove when used as primary or supplemental heating; gas or electricity for cooking, water, trash collection and recycling, basic cable TV or satellite dish signal, telephone. Premium services, such as expanded cable, cell phone and service package, long-distance land line charges, are the responsibility of the Pastor. In all cases except the pastor's personal cell phone, the name on the account is the church and the treasurer is responsible for paying the bills on time.

g. Parsonage Standards: Pets

Not surprisingly, openness to pets living at the Parsonage varies widely across jurisdictions. Constants in published policies include that the pastor is entirely responsible for replacing any furnishings damaged for removing any shelters and containments before vacating the Parsonage, and for providing consistent, humane care in every aspect of the pet's life and death.

Best practices suggest the following recommendations in addition to these general views.

- » To avoid a host of problems associated with pets that get loose and risk being hurt, harmed, lost or stolen, and to avoid creating conflicts with neighbors, pets should be kept indoors.
- » To enable all church members to visit the Parsonage when invited, including persons with pet allergies, one room for receiving visitors in the Parsonage shall be kept pet-free. Certainly forewarning visitors that pets have had free access to all parts of the parsonage is advised.

Non-compliance with the above responsibilities/agreements by the pastor and/or family may result in the church billing the pastor for costs and repairs and/or services. If not satisfactorily resolved, disciplinary charges may result. (HOLSTON)

h. Parsonage Standards: Modifications to the property

The pastor or spouse may choose to make small repairs to the Parsonage, in consultation with the appropriate church committee, but shall not be required to do so.

Changes to the existing parsonage structure and property, such as playgrounds, decks, sheds, or a permanent or temporary nature designed to enhance the livability for the parsonage family including children, pets, and persons with handicapping conditions or unique situations shall be negotiated between the pastor, Parsonage Committee, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and Trustees. (WEST OHIO)

i. Parsonage Standards: In-home businesses

At no time may anyone residing in the church parsonage conduct a for-profit business that will compromise the tax-free status of church-owned property. Any questions about such businesses should be referred to the District Superintendent or conference treasurer or chancellor before establishing the business.

j. Parsonage Standards: Ethical and moral practices

A large question here is: What is the relationship of the parsonage to the United Methodist Church policy on sexual ethics? In general, any property where church activities are conducted, as well as any property owned by the church, including any dwelling used as a residence by a pastor of the church, whether owned by the church and provided to the pastor as part of a compensation package (a "Parsonage"), or owned or rented by a pastor of the local church by agreement of a housing stipend or allowance, shall be governed by the United Methodist Church Social Principles and *The 2008 Book of Discipline*, ¶¶ 161*H*, 161*I* and 2702. GCSRW recommends an explicit statement in all housing/parsonage agreements identifying the residence of the pastor as "the Parsonage", therefore, subject to all UMC policies related to Safe Sanctuaries and to be compliant to UMC sexual ethic policies.

k. Recommended (not required) Parsonage Standards:

In addition to the list of required Parsonage Standards, the following is to be considered favorably when possible.

- » 4 bedrooms
- » Family room
- » Study
- » Garbage disposal
- » Stand-alone deep freezer
- » At least one walk-in shower and one tub
- » Permanent, maintained weather proofing in regions where extreme weather is expected, such as severe lightning (need rod), hurricanes (need permanent, sturdy shutters for exterior glass surfaces), flooding (sump pump), power outages (need backup generator), or extreme snow (appropriate roofing, etc.) Needs and precautions will vary by region
- » Safe storage areas for paints, gasoline, or other flammables
- » Irrigation system for the yard, as practical
- » Monitored security system that ensures the security of the entire house, to be determined in consultation with pastor's family
- » Floor lamps in homes without overhead lighting
- » At time of window replacement, purchase high efficiency windows with insulating thermal pane
- » Increase insulation in walls and ceilings to maximize energy efficiency. Consider at time of roof replacement and any remodeling projects that affect insulated walls

III. Parsonage Furnishings and Furniture Proposal – Where Applicable

It will be most helpful for both the clergy family and the congregation to be mindful and supportive of each other's goals and needs in adopting standards for parsonage furnishings. Well meaning congregations may not be able to afford the full extent of Parsonage furnishings they would like to provide, and believe that second-hand furnishings with life left in them show good faith and stewardship of limited resources. Clergy families may feel some resentment using furniture and furnishings relegated to the parsonage as the last step before recycling into the community at large or, worse, landfill. Understanding budget limitations and appreciating certain comfort and aesthetic preferences will allow for constructive dialog and transition.

The clearest, most proactive approaches we have seen recommend a phasing out of churchowned parsonage bedroom furniture, and the eventual phasing out of all church-owned furniture within a number of years sufficient to allow pastors to acquire their own furniture.

From an edited statement from 2002 Florida Annual Conference Committee on Clergy Housing document shines some light in this area:

As the Committee checked with other conferences about parsonage guidelines, it came to our attention that many require the clergy family to provide the furniture ... and many clergy families wish to provide the furniture.

It is often traumatic for children when families move. This trauma is greatly reduced if the child's bedroom contains some of the furniture from the previous address. Many clergy are now entering as

second careers and own quite a bit of furniture they would like to keep. Other families, whether or not in second careers inherit and wish to keep furniture from relatives. Furniture ownership would make the transition into retirement easier and less expensive.

Getting out of the furniture business would reduce conflicts within the church about the quality of furniture. It would reduce the many conflicts over the damage of furniture, whether from normal use or abuse. The church would no longer have to worry about the different style preferences of incoming families

Finally, a growing number of churches provide a housing allowance, which requires a clergy person to provide his or her own furniture. To be relocated to a parsonage with furniture creates many difficulties.

The Committee recommends the following: The clergy person will provide the furniture in parsonages, excepting appliances and window and floor coverings. The clergy person shall be required to provide all furniture for bedrooms by (year) and all other areas of the house by (year.)

However, if the clergy person wants some of the furnishings presently in the house, it is hoped the church will provide a process to make that possible.

Young clergy serving small churches may not have sufficient furnishings for the parsonage. In that case, the church may make furnishings available for every room except the bedroom which should be furnished by each incoming pastor.

Parsonage Furnishings Summary

Used furniture and equipment donated to the church shall not be placed in the parsonage except by request of the clergy family. In that case, it shall remain the property of the church.

New furniture and equipment donated to the church for use in the parsonage must meet all specifications set forth by the Parsonage Standards and Parsonage Committee should be clearly designated as items to become part of the parsonage furnishings owned by the church OR designated as personal gifts to the pastor's family. Photos of these items should be kept with the Parsonage Record Book.

Church owned and maintained furnishings include:

- » Quality window coverings in neutral colors that ensure privacy and increase energy efficiency of home
- » Quality floor coverings in neutral colors that are durable and easily maintained
- » Medicine cabinet in bathroom
- » Any furniture remaining in the Parsonage until the full phase-in of pastor-owned furniture

When furnishings are to be replaced, all church-owned window coverings, rugs and carpets, and upholstered furniture, purchases shall be replaced with new items in neutral colors and fabrics, in styles that will coordinate easily with the clergy's own items, and will not quickly become outdated (not trendy or faddish.)

IV. Parsonage maintenance, a shared responsibility

The parsonage is the pastor's home, the church's investment, and a visible example of church stewardship in the community. Therefore, it is in everyone's interest to maintain the parsonage with the utmost care. Best practices include periodic inspections and ongoing maintenance by the church, and an attitude of cleanliness and respect for house, lawn and garden by the pastor.

a. Upkeep, records, and inspections

Basic property upkeep is the sole responsibility of the pastor. This includes all routine interior and exterior cleaning that can be done without outside help (excluding, for example, dry cleaning window treatments), keeping the grounds neat, mowed, and trimmed, shoveling snow, refraining from smoking indoors, and repairing at the pastor's expense any damage to the property or furnishings created by the pastor, family, or pets.

All property improvements, large repairs, equipment replacement, and periodic cleaning of the parsonage, including furniture and furnishings, is the responsibility of the church. Examples include roof and gutter work, heating and cooling equipment repairs, buffing hardwood floors, replacing warn or worn out furniture, lamps, appliances; window washing, etc. When possible, service can be provided by church members; otherwise, services should be contracted and performed by outside providers at times that do not incur special overtime or holiday fees and are convenient for the pastor's schedule.

b. Parsonage Committee

One duty of the church's Pastor-Parish/Staff-Parish Relations Committee (*The 2008 Book of Discipline*, ¶ 258.2) and the Board of Trustees (*Discipline* ¶¶ 2524-2532) is to ensure that the parsonage is optimally maintained for the pastors who live there and for the church who owns it. Membership and leadership of the Parsonage Committee should rotate, as does membership in other church committees and boards, and includes, but is not limited to:

- » The pastor and pastor's spouse
- » Member of the Finance Committee
- » Member of the Trustees
- » Three members who have a special knowledge and experience of buildings and construction, including representative carpenters, contractors, architects, etc. for both the building and the mechanical equipment. Other member profiles might include interior design and landscaping.

From time to time, members of the congregation may be invited to serve for a special one- to two-year term to work on a special project, such as when the need for a new roof or new heating-ventilation-air conditioning (HVAC) system will be needed in the coming year. This person will work with the committee to identify the scope of work, obtain and evaluate proposals and bids, and help oversee the work to completion. Note, while church members can be invaluable in this way and can consider it part of their stewardship of time and talent, the church should not expect that a member with, for example, a roofing business, will contribute anything more than project administration and supervision. This could create a conflict of interest with the member's liability insurance, business partners, and more.

c. Parsonage Record Book

All records about the parsonage, including but not limited to completed inspection forms and one blank (original) copy of the current inspection forms, relevant photos, details of parsonage improvements, repairs, purchases, specifications, vendors and proposals, paint colors and samples, etc., but excluding light bulbs and other routine small purchases, should be maintained and kept up to date in the Parsonage Record Book. This book will be stored in an office in the church building. Keeping the Parsonage Record Book up to date and complete is the responsibility of the Parsonage Committee and should be reviewed at least once per year by the Trustees.

Important and helpful items to be included:

- » An up-to-date inventory of all parsonage furnishings including, if possible, the date purchased, cost, present condition, and a projected replacement time
- » For each appliance: operating instructions or manuals, repair instructions, service personnel to call and which, if any, Parsonage Committee member to call
- » Where to find: turn-off valve for gas, turn-off valves for outside and inside water; meters, fuse or switch boxes, circuit breakers, and main switch, all properly labeled
- » Size and change intervals for heating and cooling filters
- » Various permanent plants which are seasonal
- » Any unusual appliances, equipment, or household features, such as drop-down attic ladder through bedroom closet
- » Sprinkler system instructions
- » Sewer clean outs, septic tank cleaning
- » Numbers to call in emergencies: police, fire, ambulance, insurance company, church representatives, etc.
- » Basic information for cleaning carpets and draperies. The local church is responsible for this cleaning.
- » Photographs of the property, inside and out, updated periodically as appropriate (ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE)

d. Inspection schedule and sample forms

To facilitate timely maintenance, a brief walk-through parsonage review should be conducted by the Parsonage Committee every six months in the first year of a new appointment, then once each year following. A thorough inspection should be conducted 30 days before a pastor leaves a charge, then a shorter follow-up walkthrough after everything has been moved out. These inspections are to be written, signed, and kept with the Parsonage Record Book.

Because housing and acreage standards vary across the denomination nationally, the following inspection forms could be considered reference points for your own inspections.

» Complete Property Description

This is done once and updated every 10 years unless there are significant changes, such as new roof, a new addition, Americans With Disabilities Act modifications, garage replaced, basement waterproofing, etc. In that case, it is to be updated at the time of the work completion. It is recommended that these decennial inspections be conducted by a paid professional home inspector outside of the church.

- » Move-in Form
- » 6-month Walk-through
- » 12-month Annual Review and Report
- » "Checklist When Vacating a Parsonage" and Parsonage Accountability Review
- » Parsonage Agreement Form

e. Helpful boundaries: early assessment, orderly remediation of problems

Process to remedy neglect of the parsonage by the pastor

Unfortunately, it has been the experience of a number of churches that pastors have demonstrated a lack of care for the parsonage. Published practices from U.S.A. annual conferences suggest two different approaches to remediation of pastor negligence in parsonage care. One is to withhold the final paycheck until any damage is fixed and any disputes are resolved. Another is to collect a security deposit from any incoming pastor.

The benefit of the former is to establish a positive expectation from the start of the new pastor-parish relationship and only respond to problems if necessary at the end. However, the drawback is that the final paycheck may be needed by the pastor, and may not be sufficient to cover cleaning and damages before the new next pastor moves in.

The benefit of the security deposit model is the neutrality of collecting this money from everyone and having the money available as needed throughout the appointment. Among the drawbacks is the immediate sense that the pastor is a renter from the church landlord, the pastor may have no history of parsonage abuse and feels unfairly penalized, and the amount of the deposit may be more than or less than needed for final cleaning and repairs.

Best practice offers a third model:

- » Pastor and parish do a walkthrough inspection of the parsonage before the pastor moves in, and together sign a care, conduct, and maintenance parsonage agreement.
- » At six months, the pastor fills out a 6-month inspection form indicating what, if any, attention is needed by the church; the Parsonage Committee inspects the parsonage for evident lack of care and/or damage. If, at that time, a security deposit is warranted, it shall be collected and escrowed in a parsonage account by the SPRC/PPRC, and the District Superintendent will be notified in writing.
- » At twelve months, the annual parsonage inspection is conducted. If necessary, another inspection is scheduled for eighteen months. The security deposit is retained in any case. Inspections would follow annually thereafter.

The amount of this deposit should be determined by the local church, in conjunction with annual conference policy on this matter, in the range of \$150 for cleaning to \$2500 for damages. When the pastor leaves the charge, the church will spend as much as necessary to clean and/or correct damages outside of normal daily use by the pastor and notify the District Superintendent of the remaining balance of principal and interest that can be returned to the pastor. If at any time the deposit is depleted, the church may withhold the final paycheck to clean and repair damage, as per the Parsonage Agreement signed at the beginning of the appointment.

A photographic record shall be made of damages discovered during the final moving out inspection and determined to be the responsibility of the clergyperson. This photograph shall be filed with the local church trustees who will submit a bid for the necessary repair work. A copy of this bid will be forwarded to both the pastor and the district superintendent in whose district the parsonage is located. The chairperson of the church trustees will notify the district superintendent when these repair costs have been paid in full either with the security deposit or withholdings from the final paycheck.

The District Clergy Housing Subcommittee will be the final arbiters in any disputes between clergypersons and local church Parsonage Committees and Trustees concerning the cleanliness and condition of the parsonage.

If, conversely, after three years there is no more need for the security deposit, the principal and interest may be returned to the pastor. There will be no administration fee collected from any church for holding or distributing this fund.

If the pastor does not pay the security deposit, or there are any other ongoing problems with the way the parsonage is used, the District Superintendent and, if necessary, the District Clergy Housing Subcommittee may be asked to intervene.

(Conferences with helpful policies online: HOLSTON, KANSAS WEST, SOUTH GEORGIA)

Process to remedy neglect of the parsonage by the church

Unfortunately, there are also cases of parsonage neglect by churches. If at the six- and twelvemonth reviews there is a pattern of inattention to maintenance issues by the local church, the pastor will submit the Request for Parsonage Care form to the District Superintendent who will rectify the problems directly with the church Board of Trustees and Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

This will be an indication to both the DS and the SPRC that additional attention is needed to provide satisfactory housing for the pastor and establish an eighteen-month inspection. If by then there has been no solution, the District Superintendent will ask the District Clergy Housing Subcommittee to work directly with the local church in rectifying both the problems at the parsonage and overall parsonage management.

f. District Clergy Housing Subcommittee (DCHS)

In some annual conferences, the upward line of communication for parsonage oversight and management is as follows:

Pastor -> Parsonage Committee -> SPRC/Church Trustees -> District Superintendent ->District Clergy Housing Subcommittee of the Annual Conference or District Board of Trustees.

This subcommittee oversees all of the parsonages in the district, makes buy/sell property recommendations, and establishes district standards for housing allowances in lieu of the parsonage provision. The members of this subcommittee are representative of the entire district and contribute expertise in three main areas: the spiritual/motivational gift of administration, interest and experience in money management and finance, and special interest and experience in building construction and maintenance (architects, contractors, builders.)

The DCHS can also be helpful when a District Superintendent is unable to help a pastor and congregation reach a mutually acceptable agreement on a parsonage issue. The DCHS will take the matter under advisement and seek a workable solution.

The Florida Annual Conference uses a model for the DCHS as follows.

Membership of the District Clergy Housing Subcommittee shall be comprised of six to nine lay and clergy persons, elected annually at the same time and method as other leadership of the District is elected, on a rotating basis. Membership of the Committee should be reflective of the churches of that District, including size, race, and ethnic makeup, and as recommended by the current Discipline for Conference committees: 1/3 clergy, 1/3 laywomen, 1/3 laymen.

The DCHS will be responsible for tasks specific to the district's parsonages, as assigned by the District Superintendent. Specifically:

Work in cooperation with the District Board of Buildings and Locations to assure that all proposed parsonages fulfill the requirements for parsonages as stated in the Conference standing rules and the current Discipline;

Mediate conflicts as needed between churches and pastors in regard to parsonages or housing allowances at the invitation of the District Superintendent. Local church trustees, Parsonage Committee, Staff-Parish Committee, or clergy family may request mediation.

Any church wishing to offer a housing allowance instead of a parsonage shall have the allowance approved by this Committee. In reviewing and approving all housing allowances for clergy in the District, the Committee shall insure the allowance fulfills the current Discipline requirements and the Annual Conference Standing Rules. The Committee must review these allowances at least once every four years to ensure they represent the housing market of the time.

Ensure all clergy housing meets the Annual Conference Standing Rules requirements by (year). Assist local churches in developing plans to bring parsonages up to the required standard.

Inspect each parsonage in the District at least once every four years or when there is a clergy change, whichever comes later, and as needed when requested to mediate concerns.

The DCHS will have the authority to make exceptions to the Conference Parsonage Standards and Recommendations and housing allowances when special needs exist in consultation with the District Superintendent.

V. Additional Resources & Information

- » Guidelines 2009-2012: Trustees. Cokesbury. 1-800-672-1789. www.cokesbury.com
- » Guidelines 2009-2012: Pastor-Parish Relations. Cokesbury. 1-800-672-1789. <u>www.</u> cokesbury.com
- » Americans With Disabilities Act -- www.ada.gov
- "Guidelines for Pastoral Transitions". Prepared for the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Published by the Leadership Development Institute, Board of Laity. <u>http://vaumc.org/NCFileRepository/Cabinet/Guidelines%20for%20</u> <u>Pastoral%20Transitions.pdf</u>
- » Healthy Disclosure: Solving Communication Quandaries in Congregations, by Kibbie Simmons Ruth and Karen A. McClintock. Alban Institute, © 2007. ISBN: 978-1-56699-346-3.
- Starting Again with a New Church." Prepared for the North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. <u>http://northgaumc.s3.amazonaws.com/</u> <u>E60FD5FDE42B4EF6AE7A6AC62333E208_Move%20Pack%20-%20Starting%20</u> <u>Again%20-%20Clergy%20-%20NEW.pdf</u>
- >> United Methodist Judicial Council Decisions -- search related to "housing" and "parsonages". Note in particular: While it is noted that housing is not a matter of right (See Judicial Council Decision 562), it is also noted that there is nothing in *The Book of Discipline* which would prevent a pastor that does not need housing from negotiating for more compensation (Judicial Council Decisions 547 and 562).

VI. Sample Forms

Parsonage Agreement 10-Year Inspection Form Annual Parsonage Review Report Checklist When Vacating a Parsonage: Pastor House Checklist Move-In Form: Pastor Six-Month Parsonage Inspection Form

Parsonage Agreement (Sample)

The pastor and family shall be entitled to the use of the premises for their own peaceful enjoyment and beneficial use. They may not keep anything on the premises which will affect the validity of standard fire insurance policies; violate a building, zoning or health code of the community; engage in or sponsor any activity illegal by local, state, or federal laws or inappropriate by the United Methodist Church Social Principles; or engage in any incomeproducing activity which would compromise the tax-free status of the church. The property shall also not be used in any manner which tends to interfere with the peaceful possession of adjoining premises by other tenants.

Persons occupying the premises shall keep them in a clean and habitable condition. They are not liable for repairs or damages caused by normal wear and tear or negligence of the owning congregation. They are liable for damage and repairs thereof resulting from their or any guest's intentional or negligent conduct. No addition, alteration, improvement or redecoration shall be undertaken in the parsonage without prior agreement of the [Board of Trustees or Staff-Parish/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee] of the owning congregation. Occupants who keep any animal(s) within or outside of the parsonage are responsible for woodwork or drapery repair, carpet cleaning by a professional cleaner, carpet replacement if necessary and any landscaping damage resulting from the pet animal(s).

The owning congregation is responsible for property maintenance and improvements; will make good faith efforts to improve energy efficiency with each replacement roof, appliance, window, door and heating/ventilation/air conditioning unit and will set aside an amount of money each year in an accumulating account sufficient to anticipate and complete major, predictable parsonage repairs such as roof replacement and new heating/cooling equipment.

Members of the [Board of Trustees or Staff-Parish/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee] and the pastor shall together, within five days of the pastor moving in, inventory the premises. A detailed record of the premises, furnishings and equipment owned by the church, and furnishings and equipment owned by the incoming pastor, shall be completed in writing, submitted to the District Superintendent, and filed in the church's Parsonage Record Book. Duplicate copies shall be signed and retained by both parties.

At intervals specified by the Annual Conference but recommended to be at 6 months, 12 months, 18 months if necessary, annually thereafter, and a whole-house licensed professional inspection every 10 years, the [Board of Trustees or Staff-Parish/Pastor-Parish Committee] will inspect the parsonage.

At move-out time, both parties shall together re-inspect the parsonage and complete another inventory of furnishings and equipment. Normal wear and tear must be expected, but the last salary check shall not be distributed by the church treasurer until both parties are satisfied with the condition of the parsonage.

Pastor's Name:	Date:
PPRC/SPRC/Trustee's Chairperson:	Date:
Depresentative's Address	Dhana
Representative's Address	Phone:

Representative's Address

10 Year Inspection Form (Sample)

EXTERIOR

ling	☐ Yes	□ No	
Type: D brick D stucco Condition/comments/descrip		☐ steel ☐ clapboard ☐ other	
Date of last maintenance:			
Describe the work done:			
ndows and doors			
Condition of windows:			
Are the windows insulated gla	iss? 🗌 Yes	🔲 No	
Date windows installed:			
Are they operable?	☐ Yes	🗆 No	
Condition of any special art g	V awondows	(l	
e en ang epecial ar c		men have any repairs been made?	
		nen nave any repairs been made?	
		nen nave any repairs been made?	
		nen nave any repairs been made?	
Date art glass windows inspec	:ted:		
Date art glass windows inspec Are there storm doors?	ted:	No	
Date art glass windows inspec	:ted:		

T. un a.] san halt . 🗆 filo unless shingles . 🗖 tilos . 🗖 sthan
	asphalt
Year inst	alled Date of last maintenance:
Describe	the work done:
Conditio	n of gutters, downspouts:
Conditio	n of ridge vents, soffit vents:
	n of lawn, trees, shrubs, etc.:
	n of lawn, trees, shrubs, etc.:
	n of lawn, trees, shrubs, etc.:
Condition	
Condition	n of lawn, trees, shrubs, etc.: n of paved patio, walks, drive:
Condition	

	Does the church provide a lawn mower?	No
	Does the church provide a snow blower?	No
	Is there a sprinkler system?	No
	Is there a storage shed for yard tools? \Box Yes \Box	No
	Does the ground slope away from the house? (Evidence of pondi	ng in yard?)
	Tes T	No
Ga	Garage	
	Age of garage to	
	Condition of garage inside and out:	
	Dimensions of garage	width by donth)
		width by depth)
	Number of stalls:	
	Is there an automatic door opener? 🗌 Yes 🗌 No	
INTE	ERIOR	
	Number of rooms:	
	Number of bedrooms:	
	Number of indoor bathrooms:	
LI	Living room	
	Dimensions:' by' (width by d	
		ear installed:
	Walls:	replace:
	Describe window treatments:	
	Date curtains/drapes professionally cleaned:	

Dimensions:	' by	' (wi	dth by depth)	
Type of floor covering:			Year installed:	
Walls: 🛛 Papered 🗌] Painted Year	r of most recent	refresh, replace:	
Describe window treatr	nents:			
Date curtains/drapes p	rofessionally clea	ned:		
nily Room				
Dimensions:	' by	' (wi	dth by depth)	
Type of floor covering:			Year installed:	
	Painted Year	r of most recent		
Walls: Papered		r of most recent	Year installed: refresh, replace:	
		r of most recent		
Walls: Papered		r of most recent		
Walls: Papered		r of most recent		
Walls: Papered		r of most recent		
Walls: Papered	nents:			
Walls: Papered Describe window treatr	nents:			
Walls: Papered Describe window treatr	nents:	ned:		
Walls: Papered Describe window treatr	nents: rofessionally clear	ned:	refresh, replace:	
Walls: Papered Describe window treatrons Describe window treatrons Describe window treatrons Date curtains/drapes per chen Dimensions:	nents: rofessionally clear ' by	ned:' (wi	dth by depth)	
Walls: Papered Describe window treatrons Describe window treatrons Date curtains/drapes period covering: Dimensions: Type of floor covering: Walls: Papered Description Papered Descriptio	nents: rofessionally clear ' by Painted Year	ned:' (wi	dth by depth)	
Walls: Papered Describe window treatrons Describe window treatrons Describe window treatrons Date curtains/drapes per chen Dimensions:	nents: rofessionally clear ' by Painted Year	ned:' (wi	dth by depth)	
Walls: Papered Describe window treatrons Describe window treatrons Date curtains/drapes period covering: Dimensions: Type of floor covering: Walls: Papered Description Papered Descriptio	nents: rofessionally clear ' by Painted Year	ned:' (wi	dth by depth)	

Dimensions:	' by		(width	by depth)	
Type of floor covering	g:			Year installed:	
Walls: 🛛 Papered	Painted	Year of mo	ost recent refr	esh, replace:	
Describe window tre	atments:				
Date curtains/drape	s professionally	cleaned:			
hroom 1					
Dimensions:	' by		' (width	by depth)	
Type of floor covering	g:			Year installed:	
	0. 1			rour motunou.	
	_	Vear of m	ost recent refr		
Walls: Papered	Painted	Year of mo	ost recent refr		
	Painted	Year of mo	ost recent refr		
Walls: Papered	Painted	Year of mo	ost recent refr		
Walls: Papered	Painted	Year of mo	ost recent refr		
Walls: Papered	Painted	Year of mo	ost recent refr		
Walls: Papered Describe window tre	Painted atments:		ost recent refr		
Walls: Papered Describe window tre	Painted atments:		ost recent refr		
Walls: Papered Describe window tre	Painted atments:		ost recent refr		
Walls: Papered Describe window tre	Painted atments:				
Walls: Papered Describe window tre Describe window tre Date curtains/drape	Painted atments: s professionally			esh, replace:	
Walls: Papered Describe window tre Describe window tre Date curtains/drapes Chroom 2 Dimensions:	Painted atments: s professionally , by g:	cleaned:		by depth)	
Walls: Papered Describe window tre Date curtains/draper Chroom 2 Dimensions: Type of floor covering Walls: Papered	□ Painted atments: s professionally , by g: □ Painted	cleaned:	' (width	by depth)	
Walls: Papered Describe window tre Date curtains/draper Chroom 2 Dimensions:	□ Painted atments: s professionally , by g: □ Painted	cleaned:	' (width	by depth)	
Walls: Papered Describe window tre Date curtains/draper Chroom 2 Dimensions: Type of floor covering Walls: Papered	□ Painted atments: s professionally , by g: □ Painted	cleaned:	' (width	by depth)	
Walls: Papered Describe window tre Date curtains/draper Chroom 2 Dimensions: Type of floor covering Walls: Papered	□ Painted atments: s professionally , by g: □ Painted	cleaned:	' (width	by depth)	

	vidth by depth)
Describe window treatments:	vidth by depth)
Date curtains/drapes professionally cleaned:	Year installed:
droom 2 Dimensions:' by' (w Type of floor covering: Walls:	Year installed:
droom 2 Dimensions:' by' (w Type of floor covering: Walls: Depared Painted Year of most recen	Year installed:
droom 2 Dimensions:' by' (w Type of floor covering: Walls:	Year installed:
droom 2 Dimensions:' by' (w Type of floor covering: Walls:	Year installed:
Dimensions: ' by ' (w Type of floor covering: Walls: Papered Painted Year of most recen	Year installed:
Type of floor covering: Walls: Papered Painted Year of most recent	Year installed:
Walls: Papered Painted Year of most recen	
	it refresh, replace:
Date curtains/drapes professionally cleaned:	
droom 3	
Dimensions: ' by ' (w	vidth by depth)
Type of floor covering:	Year installed:
Walls: Papered Painted Year of most recen	t refresh, replace:
Describe window treatments:	
Describe window treatments:	

Dimensions:' by' (wi Type of floor covering: Walls: D Papered D Painted Year of most recent	idth by depth) Year installed:
	Year installed:
Walls: 🔲 Papered 🔲 Painted 🛛 Year of most recent	
	t refresh, replace:
Describe window treatments:	
Date curtains/drapes professionally cleaned:	
fice/Den	
Dimensions:' by' (wi	idth by depth)
Type of floor covering:	Year installed:
Walls: 🛛 Papered 🔲 Painted 🛛 Year of most recent	t refresh, replace:
Describe window treatments:	
Date curtains/drapes professionally cleaned:	
asement	
Describe basement:	
Finished Space	
	idth by depth)

Dimensions:' by	' (wid	th by depth)
Condition:		
Does each basement bedroom have an egres	s (exit) windo	ow in addition to the stairway?
☐ Yes ☐ No		,
Is there insulation on foundation walls?	🗌 Yes	🗆 No
Condition:		
Is there insulation between floor joists?	☐ Yes	□ No
Is there a crawl space?		
Condition and date of last inspection.	☐ Yes	□ No
Is there a vapor barrier and operable vents?	☐ Yes	 □ No
Any evidence of standing water in the crawl s	pace?	
□ Yes	□ No	
;		
Describe attic:		

Туре?		
Age?]	
Is there free space at	the eves for soffit v	ventilation?
	🗌 Yes	□ No
Is there evidence of n	noisture damage or	n the underside of the roof deck?
	🗌 Yes	□ No
	for some extra ventila	the roof? (Note, some visible outside light around the ation. Light coming in from the roof indicates the potent
🗌 Yes 🗌 No		
Does exhaust fan duo	ctwork go directly to	o the outside?
	🗌 Yes	□ No
pment and Mechanic	als	
	Purchase date:	Condition:
Stove/oven		
Microwave oven		
Refrigerator/freezer		
Stand-alone freezer		
Clothes washer		
Clothes dryer		
Dishwasher		
Garbage disposal		
Water conditioner		
Air conditioning unit		
Air conditioner # tons		

Whole house fans					
Heating Units					
Furnace (🗖 Gas 🔲 Electric 🔲 Heat pump 🔲 Geothermal)					
Wood-corn-burning stove					
Space heaters					
Water heater					
Size (gallons) Type Age					
Location:					
If not in basement, is there an intact drip pan underneath? Yes No					
If not in basement, is there an intact drip pan underneath? Yes No					
If not in basement, is there an intact drip pan underneath? Yes No Dehumidifier					
If not in basement, is there an intact drip pan underneath? Yes No Dehumidifier Humidifier					
If not in basement, is there an intact drip pan underneath? Dehumidifier Humidifier Sump pump					
If not in basement, is there an intact drip pan underneath? Yes No Dehumidifier Humidifier Sump pump Backup generator					

General Information

Year house built:

Has there ever been any damage due to wind, hail, fire, flood, sewer backup, sump pump failure, leaks or other natural disaster? Please describe:

What was done to mitigate the damage?

Mold

Note: Any moisture damage remaining 48 or more hours probably resulted in mold growth. Remediation regulations vary by state and jurisdiction. For the health of current and future parsonage inhabitants, all inspections and corrective measures should be undertaken by a professional trained in mold remediation. Baseline readings should be recorded and routine periodic inspections conducted more frequently following moisture damage.

Has there ever been /is there now evident mold in the house?	🗌 Yes	🗌 No	
Describe:			

If yes to	above mold question, what was done to mitigate the damage? □ Yes	□ No		
Has the r	nold mitigation been documented by professional trained emediation? Yes No			
lon				
Has radon testing been conducted? 🔲 Yes 🗌 No				
When?				
Results?				
Were levels within normal range for geographic area? 🔲 Yes 🗌 No				
If yes to above radon question, what was done to reduce/eliminate the exposure?				

Asbestos

Any asbestos which crumbles when touched (such as pipe insulation), or is of a condition that particles can become airborne when air passes over them (such as boiler insulation), or will break up or chip when disturbed (such as asbestos-containing floor tiles or glues) create an unhealthy situation for parsonage inhabitants and workers. Asbestos is a federally regulated substance and may also be governed by state, county, city, and township laws. Assessment of its condition, any liability issues, health hazards, and regulations should be undertaken by a certified, and (depending on the state) licensed professional trained in asbestos management.

Such professionals should produce current certificates of insurance at the church's request prior to inspections or removals.

Has there ever been/is there now asbestos in/on the house? \Box Yes \Box No

Describe:

If yes to above exposed asbestos question, what was done to mitigate the damage?

Have corrective measures been undertaken by professionals trained in asbestos remediation? Yes No

Lead-based Paint

Note: Federal regulations and other jurisdiction laws govern lead-based paint in homes built before 1978. While considered less of an issue for older couples because lead-based paint particles are unlikely to become airborne unless ground into powder, sanded, or heated, it is particularly dangerous to children who are more likely to ingest peeling or cracked paint and metabolize this toxic substance very quickly. Therefore, it must be removed, encapsulated, or carefully monitored in place. Assessment of its condition, any liability issues, health hazards, and regulations should be undertaken by a certified, and (depending on the state) licensed professional trained in lead-based paint management. Such professionals should produce current certificates of insurance at the owner's request prior to inspections or removals.

Has there ever been /is there now lead-based paint in the house interior, exterior? \Box Yes \Box No

Describe:

Are the paint films intact, not chipped and/or peeling? Yes No

If yes to above lead-based paint question, what was done to mitigate the damage?

Note: removal not always necessary. Was encapsulation practical?

Describe current condition.

Have assessments and any corrective measures, including remodeling/redecorating been	
documented by a professional trained in lead-based paint management? Yes No)

Electrical and Energy Efficiency

Has an energy audit been done? 🛛 Yes	□ No
Date: Attach results.	
Number of storm doors:	
Condition:	

Number of storm windows:
Type of heating:
Gas Electric Heat pump Geothermal Other
Is the heating/cooling system high efficiency? \Box Yes \Box No
Year heating/cooling system installed:
Year heating system professional inspected:
Year water heater: 🗌 gas 🗋 electric installed:
Year air conditioning: 🗌 central 🔲 window 🔲 none 🔲 other installed:

	Size of main electric panel. # Amps.: Breaker: Danel Dfuses?
	All outlets grounded (3-prong): Yes No
	Are there Ground Fault Circuit Interruptor outlets in bathrooms, kitchens, laundry?
Saf	ety
	Are there smoke alarms in the amount and locations recommended by local health codes? \Box Yes \Box No
	Are there fire extinguishers near all open-flame equipment? (kitchens, furnace, fireplaces, etc.)
	Is there a record of annual fire extinguisher inspection in the Parsonage Record Book?
	Are there carbon monoxide detectors? \Box Yes \Box No
	Is there an escape ladder or second stairway out of all bedrooms above the ground level? \Box Yes \Box No
	Is there an egress (escape) window near any basement space used as a bedroom?
	Is there a security light between detached garage and house? \square Yes \square No
Acc	essibility
	Kim to specify level of specificity here based on input from Legal wrt ADA.
	I believe all federal regulations apply, although a period of transition may be warranted. Kim to check.
	Further question: what are the issues for a church when a clergy family needs permanent or semi-

Further question: what are the issues for a church when a clergy family needs permanent or semipermanent changes to the house and grounds? In addition, what if these are for a growing child or youth with changing special needs? Consider developing an addendum that deals specifically with ADA in detail.

Maintenance Budget, Analysis

Is sufficient money set aside for routine maintenance and large, predictable repairs and replacements, including the room and heating-cooling system? Is the percentage set aside annually appropriate by current standards for the area?

Does the church maintain replacement cost insurance for the property and file a waiver of claim for pastors who choose not to self-insure personal property?

Is the viability of maintaining a church parsonage vs. creating a housing allowance discussed by the Board of Trustees, SPRC/PPRC at least once every 4 years?

Is there a review of average utility expenses done each year to assess the parsonage energy efficiency? Is this tracking document filed in the Parsonage Record Book?

Annual Parsonage Review Report (Sample)

Church Name:
Church Address:
City:
State: Zip Code:
Church Phone:
Email:
Parsonage Address:
City:
State: Zip Code:
Parsonage Phone:
Email:
Annual Conference:
Address:
City:
State: Zip Code:
Phone:
Email:

Annual Parsonage Review Report continued (Sample)

1. The annual on-site inspection of the parsonage as directed by conference action and The Book of Discipline was completed on: ______(date)

2. Those present for the annual parsonage inspection were: (list all adults present)

3. What repairs or improvements have been completed so far this year?

4. What repairs or improvements have been requested or recommended by the parsonage resident(s)?

5. If the parsonage is for a pastor serving more than one church, does each congregation share in the maintenance and improvement expenses? \Box Yes \Box No

6. What amount has been set in next year's budget(s) or by other means for parsonage repairs, improvements, and long-range savings? \$

7. Does the parsonage meet conference requirements for "ministerial residences"? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, what areas need to be addressed to meet the standards? (use additional sheets if necessary)

Pastor Date

Parsonage Committee Chair

Date

Address

Phone

Submitting this completed form to your District Superintendent completes the annual parsonage inspection.

Checklist When Vacating a Parsonage: Pastor (Sample)

Church Add	ess:			
City:				
State:		Zip Code:		
Church Pho	ıe:			
Email:				
Parsonage /	daress:			
City:				
State:		Zip Code:		
Parsonage I	hone:			
Email:				
	erence:			
Annual Conf				
Annual Conf Address:				
Address:				
		Zip Code:		

Chairperson.

Checklist When Vacating a Parsonage: Pastor continued (Sample)

1. I have conferred with the [SPRC/PPRC/Board of Trustees] about the following things which need attention:

- 2. For my part, I have completed the following items in preparation to vacate the parsonage:
 - A. Dust around ceiling, corners, door moldings, window sills and ceiling fans.
 - B. Wash all light globes in ceiling fans, ceiling lights, and lamps.
 - C. Clean all baseboards, moving furniture from walls.
 - D. Wipe out all drawers, cabinets, shelves, and counters.
 - E. Clean mirrors.
 - **F**. Dust and polish all furniture.
 - G. Clean light switchplates.
 - H. Wipe down all walls in bathrooms and kitchens.
 - I. Clean floors. Vacuum if carpets are not being cleaned until later.
 - □ J. Polish/"liquid gold" all woodwork.
 - ☐ K. Wash painted-wood cabinets.
 - L. Clean garage and storage buildings of parsonage property.
 - M. Remove all trash and other recyclable/disposable items.
 - □ N. Clean fireplace area.

Pastor	Date
Parsonage Committee Chair	Date
Address	Phone

House Checklist

	1			1		1				
	Clean and in good working order		in good working		in good working		House Checklist	Pa Respo fc Resol	onsible or	
Room/Area	Yes	No	Explain in detail any actions needed to bring item up to working order	Church	Pastor	Follow Up Date				
Kitchen										
Cabinet Doors						/				
Counter Top						/				
Dishwasher						/				
Drain and Garbage Disposal						/				
Electrical Outlets						/				
Floor						/				
Windows and Screens						/				
Window Coverings, Rods						/				
Hood Fan and Light						/				
Light Fixtures						/				
Microwave						/				
Refrigerator						/				
Shelves and Drawers						/				
Sink and Faucets						/				
Stove:						/				
Broiler Pan						/				
Burners						/				
Drip Pans						/				
Drip Rings						/				
Lights						/				
Racks						/				
Timers and Controls						/				
Dining Rroom										
Doors						/				
Electrical Outlets						/				
Floor						/				

	Clean and in good working order		in good working		in good working		House Checklist	Pa Respo fc Resol	nsible or	
Room/Area	Yes	No	Explain in detail any actions needed to bring item up to working order	Church	Pastor	Follow Up Date				
Light Fixtures						/				
Windows and Screens						/				
Window Coverings, Rods						/				
Walls						/				
Storage/Closets						/				
Livingroom										
Doors						/				
Electrical Outlets						/				
Floor						/				
Light Fixtures						/				
Windows and Screens						/				
Window Coverings, Rods						/				
Walls						/				
Storage/Closets						/				
Family Room						/				
Doors						/				
Electrical Outlets						/				
Floor						/				
Light Fixtures						/				
Windows and Screens						/				
Window Coverings, Rods						/				
Walls						/				
Storage/Closets						/				
Bedroom 1										
Doors						/				
Electrical Outlets						/				
Floor						/				
Light Fixtures						/				

	Clean and in good working order		in good working		in good working		House Checklist	Pai Respo fc Resol	nsible or	
Room/Area	Yes	No	Explain in detail any actions needed to bring item up to working order	Church	Pastor	Follow Up Date				
Windows and Screens						/				
Window Coverings, Rods						/				
Walls						/				
Storage/Closets						/				
Bedroom 2										
Doors						/				
Electrical Outlets						/				
Floor						/				
Light Fixtures						/				
Windows and Screens						/				
Window Coverings, Rods						/				
Walls						/				
Storage/Closets						/				
Bedroom 3										
Doors						/				
Electrical Outlets						/				
Floor						/				
Light Fixtures						/				
Windows and Screens						/				
Window Coverings, Rods						/				
Walls						/				
Storage/Closets						/				
Additional Room										
Doors						/				
Electrical Outlets						/				
Floor						/				
Light Fixtures						/				
Windows and Screens						/				

	Clean and in good working order		in good working		House Checklist	Pa Respo fc Resol	nsible or	
Room/Area	Yes	No	Explain in detail any actions needed to bring item up to working order	Church	Pastor	Follow Up Date		
Window Coverings, Rods						/		
Walls						/		
Storage/Closets						/		
Bathroom 1								
Basin						/		
Counter Tops						/		
Doors						/		
Drains: bath, shower, sink						/		
Electrical Outlets						/		
Faucets/Fixtures						/		
Floor						/		
Light Fixtures						/		
Mirror						/		
Shelves						/		
Toilet Bowl and Seat						/		
Towel Racks						/		
Tub and Shower						/		
Walls and Tile						/		
Windows and Screens						/		
Window Coverings, Rods						/		
Bathroom 2								
Basin						/		
Counter Tops						/		
Doors						/		
Drains: bath, shower, sink						/		
Electrical Outlets						/		
Faucets/Fixtures						/		

	Clean and in good working order		in good working		House Checklist	Pa Respo fo Resol	nsible or	
Room/Area	Yes	No	Explain in detail any actions needed to bring item up to working order	Church	Pastor	Follow Up Date		
Floor						/		
Light Fixtures						/		
Mirror						/		
Shelves						/		
Toilet Bowl and Seat						/		
Towel Racks						/		
Tub and Shower						/		
Walls and Tile						/		
Windows and Screens						/		
Window Coverings, Rods						/		
Basement								
Doors						/		
Electrical Outlets						/		
Floor						/		
Lights						/		
Windows and Screens						/		
Window Coverings, Rods						/		
Walls						/		
Halls, Stariways								
Electrical Outlets						/		
Floors						/		
Lights						/		
Walls						/		
Hand Rails						/		
Furnishings	This	list wi	ll vary widely, depending on whether furnishings are still i	include	ed.			
Washer						/		
Dryer						/		

	Clean and in good working order		in good working		in good working		in good working		in good working		in good working		House Checklist	Pa Respo fc Resol	nsible or	
Room/Area	Yes	No	Explain in detail any actions needed to bring item up to working order	Church	Pastor	Follow Up Date										
						/										
						/										
						/										
						/										
Mechanical																
Air Conditioner/ Central Air						/										
Furnance/Heating Unit						/										
Water Heater						/										
Humidifier						/										
Fireplace/ Woodburning Stove						/										
Sump Pump						/										
Backup Generator						/										
Garage																
Overall Condition - Inside						/										
Overall Condition - Outside						/										
Electrical Outlets						/										
Garage Door(s) for Cars						/										
Side Door						/										
Garage Door Opener/ Remotes						/										
Lights						/										
Floor, Driveway, Approach						/										
Patio/Deck																
Clean						/										
Condition						/										
Electrical Outlets						/										
Lights						/										

	Clean and in good working order		House Checklist	Pa Respo fc Resol	nsible or	
Room/Area	Yes	No	Explain in detail any actions needed to bring item up to working order	Church	Pastor	Follow Up Date
Exterior						
Paint, Trim						/
Windows, Doors						/
Operable						/
Weather Tight						/
No Exposed Lead Paint						/
Secure						/
Landscaping						/
Fence						/
Other						/
Other						
Locks						/
Smoke, Radon, Carbon Monoxide Detectors						/
Keys						/
Additional Comments						

Signatures

Pastor	Date	
	D.4.	
Parsonage Committee Chair	Date	
Address	Phone	

Date Parsonage Review Report Submitted

Move-In Form: Pastor (Sample)

Church Name:
Church Address:
City:
State: Zip Code:
Church Phone:
Email:
Parsonage Address:
City:
State: Zip Code:
Parsonage Phone:
Email:
Annual Conference:
Address:
City:
State: Zip Code: Zip Code:
Phone:
Email:

Pastor: Please send a copy of this completed form to the district superintendent within 5 days of moving in.

Move-In Form: Pastor continued (Sample)

- 1. I found the exterior surroundings in the following condition: ☐ Excellent ☐ Satisfactory ☐ Poor
- a. General Appearance

b. Driveway

c. Shrubbery and Trees

d. Lawn

e. Trash, Garbage

2. I found the overall condition of the parsonage in (condition)

3. Using a separate sheet if necessary, please comment on the inside cleanliness, furnishings, equipments of the parsonage:

a. Bathrooms

b. Kitchen

Move-In Form: Pastor continued (Sample)

c. General cleanliness of other areas. If unsatisfactory, please give specifics.

d. Is there reason to think that poor habits of general maintenance have been the case? If yes, please indicate reason(s) for this conclusion.

e. Are repairs needed that seem to be a result of unconcern? If yes, please indicate reason for this conclusion.

f. Have you requested work be done to make the parsonage "liveable"? What work is needed?

g. Do the windows, draperies, carpets, and appliances appear to be well maintained? If not, please explain.

h. Are there other helpful or corrective matters to report?

4. Has the PPRC/SPRC/Trustees complied with the Parsonage Guidelines? If not, please explain.

Note: Disputes will be addressed by the [District Superintendent or District Clergy Housing

Pastor

Subcommittee].

SPRC/PPRC/Trustee's Chairperson:

Date:

Date

Six-Month Parsonage Inspection Form (Sample)

Church Name					
Church Addre	SS:				
City:			 		
State:		Cip Code:			
Church Phone	:				
Email:					
Parsonage Ad	dress:				
City:			 	 	
State:	7	Zip Code:	_		
Parsonage Ph					
Email:			 	 	
Annual Confer	ence:				
Address:			 	 	
City:					
	Z	Zip Code:			
State:					
State: Phone:					

Six-Month Parsonage Inspection Form *continued* (Sample)

Dutside
Entry
iving Room
Dining Area
Kitchen
Halls and Stairways
-
Bedroom 1
Bedroom 2
Bedroom 3
Study
Family Room
Bathroom 1
Bathroom 2

Stove

Six-Month Parsonage Inspection Form continued (Sample)

Refrigerator	
Keys: What for? How many? Where are they kept?	
Pastor	Date
SPRC/PPRC/Trustee's Chairperson:	Date
Representative's Address	Phone

Inspection is conducted together by Parsonage Committee, using the form to check on overall condition of Parsonage and Pastor, using this form to point out any problems discovered after the initial walkthrough.