

## LAKEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Distracted Driver Policy

In order to increase safety and eliminate unnecessary risks behind the wheel, Lakewood United Methodist Church (LUMC) has enacted a Distracted Driving Policy. This document sets forth LUMC policies about cell phone usage and **applies to all employees and volunteers** operating a LUMC vehicle or operating a personal vehicle for church related purposes.

For purposes of this policy, the term "cell phone" is defined as any handheld electronic device with the ability to receive and/or transmit voice, text, or data messages without a cable connection (including, but not limited to, cellular telephones, digital wireless phones, radio-phones/walkie-talkies, telephone pagers, PDAs (personal digital assistants with wireless communications capabilities), or RIM ("research in motion") wireless devices).

Due to research that indicates that cell phone use while driving is dangerous, and may even approach the equivalent danger of driving while drunk, according to some studies, **LUMC prohibits the use of cell phones, either hands on or hands free, while driving church owned vehicles or while driving personal vehicles for church related purposes. Drivers are required to physically hand their cell phone to a passenger if transporting others.**

This prohibition of cell phone use while driving includes receiving or placing calls, text messaging, surfing the Internet, receiving or responding to email, checking for phone messages, or any other purpose.

Additionally, drivers should:

- Turn the cell phone off or put on silent or vibrate before starting the vehicle and place it where the vibration will not be a distraction or temptation when driving church vehicles alone.
- Inform others of this policy as an explanation of why calls may not be returned immediately.
- Remember that safety must come before all other concerns.
- If acceptance of a call is unavoidable or making a call is absolutely necessary, allow and instruct the passenger with possession of the phone to receive or make the call on your behalf.
- Regardless of the circumstances, employees shall pull off to the side of the road and safely stop the vehicle before placing or accepting any call.

Employees are expected to serve as role models for proper compliance with the provisions above and are encouraged to remind volunteers regularly of their responsibilities in complying with this policy.

I acknowledge that I have received a written copy of the Distracted Driving Policy, that I fully understand the terms of this policy, that I agree to abide by these terms, and that I am willing to accept the consequences of failing to follow the policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Name (printed)