

Nut-Free Guidelines 2017 **Addendum to Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines 2016**

For Administrative Board
Salmon Creek Church | A United Methodist Ministry

Drafted by John Harrell, Safety Advocate
Ratified by Board of Trustees: **March 9, 2017**
Adopted by Administrative Board **April 12, 2017**

Scripture background

At Salmon Creek United Methodist Church (“SCUMC”), as we desire to live into our mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” we seek to live by Jesus’ life and example in every aspect of our ministry.

Central to Jesus’ life and ministry was his welcome of the outsider and ministry to those who had special needs. In his famous Parable of the Sheep and Goats, he says that the Son of Man will one day say to us: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matt. 25:40 NRSV). Likewise, we seek to serve and share hospitality even with those for whom Nut allergies might otherwise prevent them from sitting at table in fellowship with us.

Elsewhere in God’s Word, we see that “if your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died” (Romans 14:15 NRSV). While Paul was speaking here about the injury to one’s *faith*, it’s not hard to imagine that the same principle applies to injury to one’s *body*. We desire to be inclusive of all of God’s children around the table of fellowship.

We cannot eliminate all risk of the presence of Nuts in the buildings of the main campus of SCUMC, and we do not claim to have done so. However, we feel that it is in the interest of all persons who enter our buildings that we take steps to reduce that risk. Our obligations to protect children and vulnerable adults through a “No-Nut” policy are even more important because we recognize that there are individuals who may not be able to protect themselves or may not be able to understand that some foods may contain nuts and nut products in unrecognizable ways.

Guidelines

Therefore, SCUMC puts forth these *Nut-Free Guidelines*, effective as of the date that the Administrative Board adopts these *Guidelines*. These *Guidelines* serve as an addendum to the *Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines* adopted in 2016.

1. We desire to provide a Nut-free environment at SCUMC’s main campus at 12217 NE Highway 99 in Vancouver, WA, in all buildings on our main campus.

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2. For the purposes of these guidelines, “Nut” or “Nuts” are defined as follows:
 - all tree and ground nuts, along with any extracts or butters made from them. This includes:
 - peanuts, almonds, pecans, walnuts, macadamia, pistachios, cashew, hazelnut, and pine nuts;
 - coconut;
 - peanut butter and almond butter;
 - almond or other nut extracts and pastes.
3. All food and containers at our main campus should not contain Nuts. This includes, without limitation:
 - food served at church-sponsored events such as group meals, events, bake sales, “coffee hours,” fellowship opportunities, classes, and group gatherings;
 - food consumed by staff and volunteers in personal meals on-site;
 - containers brought into the buildings of our main campus by members, attendees, or visitors of the church;
 - pantries, storage units, and refrigerators, within the buildings of our main campus, except as noted below.

Exception: Nut products may be contained and stored within our Good Samaritan food pantry, provided that the containers are and remain sealed at all times while inside the buildings of our main campus, and that they be clearly marked as Nut products prior to being stored.

4. Guest Groups – As part of the process of contracting for event-space from us, guest groups (basketball teams, weddings, funerals, and other clients who use our facilities) should submit documentation indicating their intent to comply with these *Guidelines* at all times while using our buildings.

SCUMC cannot assume liability for food served at non-SCUMC-sponsored events (e.g., events sponsored by parties to building-use contracts) because we do not control these groups, but we will still ask for voluntary compliance with this policy.

5. Signage indicating that SCUMC aims to be nut-free should be placed in a visible location at all entryway doors to the facility within one (1) month of the ratification of this document. Such signage should include language indicating that SCUMC cannot and has not eliminated all risk of the presence of Nuts within our buildings.
6. Exceptions to these *Guidelines* for specific groups or events should be rare and must be approved in writing by the SCUMC “Safety Advocate” or his/her designee.

7. Medical action plan: SCUMC will not be able to guarantee that “EpiPens” or other emergency medications and delivery systems will be readily available on our premises and ready to use in the event of a medical emergency brought on by a nut allergy reaction. It is SCUMC policy that emergency responders (“911”) will be called when an individual experiences a sudden medical emergency while in SCUMC facilities.

8. **NOTWITHSTANDING THESE GUIDELINES, SCUMC CANNOT ENSURE AND ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY THAT ALL PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS, NUT PARTICLES, NUT OILS, OR OTHER ALLERGY CAUSING ITEMS WILL NOT BE SERVED OR OTHERWISE PRESENT ON CAMPUS, OR THAT ALL ALLERGY CAUSING ITEMS WILL BE ACCURATELY IDENTIFIED AND REMOVED FROM SCUMC PREMISES. People with nut allergies and parents of children with nut allergies or other food allergies should remain diligent and are solely responsible in protecting themselves or their children when they are present on SCUMC property or when attending events or activities sponsored by SCUMC.**

Thanks to these fellowships for material / inspiration for these Guidelines:

Anderson Hills UMC, Cincinnati, OH

Cary Alliance Church, Apex, NC

Arcola (United Methodist) Church, Dulles, VA