



Charge Conference 2017 PARSONAGE STANDARDS

Parsonage standards provide uniformity so that ministers standards provide uniformity so that ministers and churches may know what to expect of each other and to minimize moving and storage expenses. It is understood that some churches provide a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage.

In order to provide an atmosphere that enables clergy to care for their families, and to provide economy, convenience, and good will for both parsonage families and churches, we propose the following standards:

1. Energy efficient heating and cooling facilities
2. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer, and dryer
3. Furniture for living room, dining room, and one bedroom
4. Shades or blinds and curtains or draperies for all windows
5. Suitable floor coverings
6. Adequate lawn mower or adequate hired care for the parsonage yard, the choice of which shall be negotiated with the pastor
7. Proper insulation, storm windows, and storm doors
8. Garage or carport
9. Deadbolts for all exterior doors

We further recommend that:

- A. Storage of the items listed above, shall be provided by the parsonage family, should the parsonage family wish not to use them, and that storage of items not listed above shall be provided by the charge.
- B. All parsonage furnishings shall be bought new, with worn out furnishings being replaced in a timely manner.
- C. Telephone with jacks be available in each room.
- D. An adequate amount shall be carried in a parsonage account or in the annual budget for the charge to maintain, repair, or upgrade parsonage and furnishings when necessary.
- E. Any charge buying, building, or renovating a parsonage shall select either a house plan or a house that:
 1. Provides accessibility to persons with handicapping conditions and keeps steps to a minimum in accordance with 2543.3b of *The Book of Discipline (2004)*;
 2. Offers at least three bedrooms, but preferably four bedrooms;
 3. Includes at least one and one half bathrooms, but with two bathrooms or more being preferable;
 4. Includes both a living room, and a family room or den;
 5. Provides adequate closet or storage space for the parsonage family;
 6. Provides a garage or carport;
 7. Includes the trust clause required by 2503.2 of *The Book of Discipline (2004)*.

As required by 2542.4 of *The Book of Discipline (2004)*, the Parsonage Committee, the Trustees, or a committee of the Chairperson of the Trustees, the Chairperson of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and the pastor shall schedule an annual review of the parsonage in cooperation with the parsonage family, and report their findings to the Administrative Board/Council, and include their report as part of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee report at Charge Conference. Said report shall include at least the following:

1. A declaration that the parsonage meets the standards set forth by the Tennessee Annual Conference or details how and when the charge shall bring its parsonage into alignment with these standards.
2. The age and condition of appliances:
 Stove _____ Refrigerator _____ Dishwasher _____ Washer _____
 Dryer _____ Lawnmower _____ Central Heat & Air _____
3. The age and condition of furniture:
 Living Room _____ Dining Room _____ Bedroom(s) _____ Other _____
4. The date when the parsonage was last painted: interior _____ exterior _____
5. The annual budget or the amount in the parsonage account for parsonage maintenance and improvement:
 \$ _____