



Service and Emotional Animal Policy

Service Animals

We God's people of Cornerstone Full Gospel Church believe that God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. ***"For every beast of the forest is mine. The cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine."***

(Psalm 50:10-11) ***Moreover, scripture tells us "A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal." Proverbs 12:10, and "In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:10)*** We recognize that our gracious LORD gave us animals to assist us in our time of need. One example is the accounting of Jonah, "The Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." (Jonah 1:17) After Jonah prayed to God in distress, "The Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land." (Jonah 2:10)

God calls us to be good stewards of his whole creation, including his creatures. ***"You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them. Noah did everything just as God commanded him."*** (Genesis 6:19-22)

The American Disabilities Act ("ADA Revised Requirements: Service Animals), and we at Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, recognize and define Service Animals as ***"dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability."***

Examples of such work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Cornerstone Full Gospel Church also understand that Service Animals are working animals, **NOT PETS**. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Neither the ADA or Cornerstone Full Gospel Church recognize that animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not



qualify as Service Animals under the ADA. When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, The Ministerial Staff which includes, Gatekeepers, Deacons and Pastors, may ask questions of the handler to include: *(1. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? And 2. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?)*

While we understand that Cornerstone Full Gospel Church is a religious institution and is exempt from this ADA requirement and does not have to allow individuals to bring their Service Animals into the facility, we believe it is our obligation to continue to show the love of Christ to those with such recognized disabilities and to assure ALL people are welcomed and embraced to receive God's love, grace and mercy here at Cornerstone Full Gospel Church as we worship together.

We also have a responsibility to our church membership, guests and visitors to provide a safe and meaningful worship environment while worshipping at Cornerstone Full Gospel Church. Therefore, we have enacted this policy to provide guidance to those who attend our services with a Service Animal and to set forth expectations we have regarding the animal and its handler:

- Persons wishing to participate with any ministry at Cornerstone Full Gospel Church should contact our church by phone or email prior to attending any event with their Service Animal. An appointment will be scheduled with the Ministerial Staff to discuss if the dog is a service animal required for a disability and what work or task has the dog been trained to perform. Approval to bring Service Animals to the facility is strictly on a case-by-case basis.
- Service Animals must remain with their Handlers at all times while on our property.
- Service Animals must wear their vest identifying them as a Service Animal at all times while on our property.
- Service Animals must not sit on church furniture.
- Service Animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. (In that case, the individual must maintain control of the Service Animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.)
- Service Animals must not whine, bark, grumble, or make other noises except such noise is an alert to notify the handler who is experiencing a physical complication.
- Service Animals must not obstruct an area used for emergency evacuation.



- Service Animals must be in good health and must be current on all vaccinations including without any limitation, Rabies vaccinations.
- Handlers must escort their Service Animal to a designated area in the back parking lot in the need of their animal to urinate or defecate. The Handler must pick up all solid waste from their Service Animal.

Emotional Support Animals

Cornerstone Full Gospel Church defines Emotional Support Animals as an animal (cat, dog, pig, etc.) that provides a therapeutic benefit to its owner through companionship and is not specifically trained or certified to perform tasks for a person who suffers from emotional, psychiatric or mental health related disabilities. An Emotional Support Animal **DOES NOT QUALIFY** as a Service Animal as defined above and, thus, **is not** granted access to Cornerstone Full Gospel Church.

Service Animal and Handler Attendance

Upon approval, individuals with Service Animals will enter the building using the Patterson Park door entrance directly in front of the Calvin Beattie Fellowship Hall.

Individuals with Service Animals who are members of Cornerstone Full Gospel Church will receive a special tag (Option-for both the Handler and the Service Animal) to enable the Ministerial Staff and other members to readily identify they have been approved by the Ministerial Staff to participate in the activities of Cornerstone Full Gospel Church.

To be sensitive to the members and guests of Cornerstone Full Gospel church who may have allergies or fear of animals, we ask that all Handlers and their Service Animal limit their seating and walking areas. We also ask that while on our property, the Handler and Service Animal sit in a specified designated area in the Calvin Beattie Fellowship Hall.

Should a Service Animal or its handler fail to comply with these expectations, the Handler will be asked to remove their Service Animal from our property immediately. The Ministerial Staff may revoke approval of any non-compliant handler or Service Animal.

A Gatekeeper will be assigned to serve in the Calvin Beattie Fellowship Hall while a Service Animal and their Handler is in attendance. If the Handler desires prayer, the Gatekeeper will alert the Pastoral Staff and one of the Associate Pastors will pray for the handler.



What Children Must Know About Service Animals

1. Service Dogs are “on duty” whenever they are with their handler. Members and guests of Cornerstone Full Gospel Church must explain to their children that the dog has a job to do and they can’t be interrupted while working.
2. Never ask why the person needs a Service Dog.
3. Don’t talk to a Service Dog. If you would like to ask a question about the amazing work the Service Dog does, ask the handler.
4. Do not distract the dog from its job by making kissy noises, barking, running and screaming, etc.
5. Always ask before petting any dog. Petting can distract them from their job, which could put the handler in danger.
6. Service Dogs and their Handlers have the right of way. Explain to children they should be polite and respectful when they see a Service Dog.
7. Never feed a Service Dog. You never know if the dog has allergies and they have extensive training to not take food from the ground or other people.

The Ministerial Staff of Cornerstone Full Gospel Church may make exceptions to this policy to accommodate unique events and situations.