

## 2018 Application for Community Garden Space

### First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul

In 2013, First Presbyterian Church transformed unused land into an organic garden. Twenty plots are rented to members and neighbors to grow nutritious food for their families. Master Gardeners use a section to run seed trials for the University of Minnesota and grow veggies for the food shelf. Volunteers use 8 plots to grow veggies for the food shelf and to sell at the Sunday morning Farmer's Market. Last summer, volunteers and Master Gardeners donated 1187 pounds of organic veggies and \$844 from the Farmer's Market to the food shelf. Gardeners are responsible for all aspects of maintaining and operating the garden. The success of the garden relies on gardeners donating time and complying with the rules. *Read the FAQ and 2018 Garden Rules carefully before signing application.*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

I) Plot size: circle one 10'X15' = \$35 10'X20' = \$45

Renters are allowed one plot initially and more if available. A \$20 damage deposit (in addition to the plot rental fee) is required. The deposit will be refunded when you notify us that you do not want to continue to rent a plot and your plot clean-up is completed. If you rented a plot last year, your deposit will be carried over to this year so you will not need to pay the deposit again. Financial assistance (partial or full) is available. Contact Julie at 651-459-5607 for info.

II) Please circle one: No experience A little experience Somewhat Skilled Very Skilled

III) What motivates your interest in the community garden (check all that apply)?

Grow my own organic food  Learn how to garden  Grow flowers  Grow food to donate  Gardening classes

Spend time outside  Relaxation/Stress Reduction  Other \_\_\_\_\_

IV) What types of flowers/vegetables/fruits/plants do you plan to grow? \_\_\_\_\_

V) Each gardener is expected to do 10 hours of service plus keep a section of the inside of the deer fence weed-free. Example: 2 work days and a Sunday harvest equals 10 hours OR 5 Sunday harvests equal 10 hours. **Sign-up for dates and tasks will occur at the kick-off meeting.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Spring work day** = 4 hours (cleaning garden, chopping compost, hauling/spreading chips for path, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Fall work day** = 4 hours (cleaning garden, chopping compost, cleaning/organizing shed, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sunday Harvest** = 2 hours (8-10AM. Harvest and wash veggies from farmers market plot)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Farmers Market Table** = 2 hours (10-12AM. Set-up and sell veggies to church members after Sunday service)

Additional chores needed thorough out the season: **site maintenance, construction projects, mouse trapping, weeding Food Shelf plots, managing compost bins, planting seeds and helping with fall clean-up of Food Shelf plots.**

I have read the Community Garden Rules. I hereby agree, for me and all those who help me in my plot, to pay the appropriate fee and abide by the 2018 Garden Rules of the FPC-SSP Community Garden. In signing this, I am stating that I am prepared to meet the physical demands of gardening, perform the required maintenance and meet the responsibilities outlined in the Rules. I understand that failure to do so may result in loss of my deposit and gardening privileges.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Returning Gardener Applications Due:** Sunday, Feb. 11th. Application and fee due to FPC-SSP to reserve plot.

**FPC-SSP Member Applications Due:** Sunday, Feb. 11th. Application and fee due to FPC-SSP to reserve plot.

**Kick-off Meeting:** Sunday April 8th @1PM (Plan to spend 2 hours)

**Spring Work Day:** Sat., May 5 or 12 proposed

**Fall Work Day:** Sat., Oct. 13 or 20 proposed

*Community Garden Waiver and Release must be signed. See next page.*

## Community Garden Waiver and Release for Participants

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING. Participation in the Garden shall be at each participant's own risk. Any and all claims for injury or damages shall be waived as a condition to participation. To the greatest extent allowed by law, even if a waiver is not signed, participation shall be considered to be an agreement to assume all risk and to hold First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul completely harmless therefrom. No security is provided at the Community Garden or on church property.

Parents shall be responsible for watching their children at all times.

I, the undersigned, agree to release, hold harmless, indemnify, and defend the First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul and its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers from and against all damages, claims, demands, suits, and/or actions resulting from my occupancy and/or use of the Community Garden property; such damages may include, but are not limited to, damage to or loss of property or physical injury or death to myself or to any person. I assume all risks and hazards for myself, my guests, and for any minor children in my custody incidental to the conduct of this activity including but not limited to the risk of physical injury attendant therewith. I understand there is no insurance coverage provided for this activity and further understand the acquisition of insurance is my personal responsibility.

I agree to act in a safe, prudent and responsible manner at all times while using the Community Garden and I agree to be respectful of other users and their property.

I have read and understand the application and accept these rules, terms, and conditions stated above for the participation in the Community Garden at FPC-SSP. I understand that this agreement may change as necessary to meet garden rules. The Steering Committee will contact me if a change to these Rules must be made in the middle of the season.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the application form, the waiver and release form and a check for the rental fee plus the \$20 deposit made out to First Presbyterian Church. Mail or deliver to: First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul, 535 20th Ave. No, So. St. Paul, MN 55075. **Application considered incomplete without payment.**

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. \$ \_\_\_\_ plot fee
2. \$20 deposit (if applicable)
3. Signed Application Form
4. Signed Waiver and Release Form

## **2018 Garden Rules**

These rules are similar to those in effect in thousands of successful community gardens around the country. They are based upon cooperation, organic gardening practices, teamwork and respect for fellow gardeners. Although the garden is a project of the church's Mission Committee, running the garden is the responsibility of the gardeners. The Steering Committee, made up of 3 church gardeners, 1 neighborhood resident, and 1 Master Gardener, will handle day-to-day operation, work with the Church and gardeners to define responsibilities, and develop policies/bylaws. With everyone's patience, cooperation, and ideas our garden will join the list of successful gardens around the U.S. and Canada.

**1. Agreement and fee.** A completed and signed Application and Waiver/Release (including payment) is required. By signing and returning the forms, you agree to these rules. A one time \$20 damage deposit (in addition to the plot rental fee) is required. The deposit will be refunded when you notify us that you do not want to continue to rent a plot and your plot clean-up is completed. If you rented a plot last year, your deposit will be carried over to this year so you will not need to pay the deposit again.

**2. Attending the spring kick-off meeting is required.** (Sunday April 8th @ 1:00PM.)

**3. Adhere to organic growing practices.** This is an organic garden. Gardeners will keep insects, pests and diseases under control using only certified organic pesticides and fertilizers. Use of unapproved materials is grounds for immediate forfeiture of plot, without refund. A list of approved products and methods will be provided. If unsure about a product, contact the Steering Committee.

**4. Service commitment.** Gardeners are expected to perform 10 hours of service plus care for the assigned section along the inside of the fence line. Donations of vegetables and equipment will not count toward the 10 hours. The steering committee will provide a short list of tasks and dates. Sign-ups will occur during the kick-off meeting. See the 2018 application for a short list of tasks.

**5. Respect other gardeners and the neighbors.** Act in a manner considerate of the rights, needs, and safety of other gardeners and the community at large and with courtesy toward others.

- No smoking, alcoholic beverages, profane language or loud music.
- Use community equipment and tools responsibly and treat with care. Return to the shed promptly and store them neatly and securely for safety and convenience.
- Do not enter others' plots except with permission or on garden business.
- Pets are not allowed in the garden (except service dogs).
- Children are very welcome in the garden but must be supervised by an adult.

**6. Actively garden, maintain your plot.**

- Harvest produce in a timely manner.
- Maintain path around your plot. Paths must be kept free of rocks, weeds, and other obstacles, including encroaching or overhanging plants (i.e. vines). The Steering Committee reserves the right to remove materials obstructing any public path at any time. Carpeting, roofing materials, and other inorganic materials are prohibited. Landscaping fabric is allowed if tidy.
- All non-diseased compostable plants must be taken to the compost bins or taken home (not put in trash cans).
- To prevent contamination of the compost bins, certain diseased plants must be taken home.
- Keep garden pests (weeds, insects and diseases) under control. Weeds are considered out of control if they are greater than 6 inches in height, are flowering or are going to seed.
- Plants must not shade other renters' plots. If a gardener complains of excessive shading by anything on your plot, you must come to an agreement or remove it.

- Any plot with numerous weeds or unharvested produce or which is untended for 3 weeks will be presumed abandoned and is subject to forfeiture without refund.

#### **7. Minimize water use.**

- Overwatering and unattended hoses are not allowed. Water hoses must not cross others' plots.
- Sprinklers and drip irrigation are not allowed in rental plots.
- To minimize water use, mulching plants and paths is highly encouraged. (Note: do not use wood chips inside your plot. Consider straw, leaves, and compost which will break down within a year. Landscape fabric is also allowed.)

#### **8. Respect church property.**

- Never dump debris or garden materials anywhere else on church property. Please use the compost bins or garbage cans. No fires.
- Do not use motorized vehicles in the garden
- Driving on the grass is not allowed without prior permission from the Steering Committee.

**9. Transferability.** You may not transfer or sublet your plot without approval of the Steering Committee. The Committee may, at its discretion, choose to approve a one-year leave of absence upon formal written request.

**11. Donate food to the food shelf.** One of the goals of the church is to grow food for the food shelf. Although not a requirement, it is hoped that gardeners will donate their excess produce to the food shelf.

**Consequence of Rule Violation.** The cooperation of all gardeners is needed to ensure that the Community Garden runs smoothly and that we can maintain our obligations to FPC-SSP, the neighbors and the City. If a gardener violates these agreed-upon rules, the Steering Committee will address the violation. The penalty may be forfeiture of the plot with no refund of fee or deposit.

## **2018 Community Garden FAQ**

### **What is this community garden all about?**

Recognizing our responsibility as Christians to restore creation, members of First Presbyterian Church turned a piece of weedy, unused land behind the church into an organic community garden. The primary goal is to give people a place to grow fresh, nutritious food for their families and the food shelf. Master Gardeners of Dakota County teach classes and demonstrate organic gardening methods in their Seed Trial Garden within the community garden. Volunteers use 8 plots to grow veggies for the food shelf at Neighbors, Inc. in So. St. Paul. The veggies from these plots and the Master Gardeners are either donated directly to the food shelf or are sold to church members at the Sunday morning Farmer's Market. Since 2013, we have donated 4901 pounds of organic vegetables and \$4215 cash from the Farmer's Market to Neighbors food shelf.

We welcome people of all cultures, with little or lots of gardening experience. Each household rents a garden plot and contributes volunteer hours to help maintain the garden. Gardeners will run the garden: collect fees, maintain paths, hold meetings, serve on the Steering Committee, etc.

### **How big are the plots and what is the rental fee?**

10'X15' are \$35 and 10'X20' are \$45. You may rent one plot. If excess plots remain, they will be available to gardeners who want a second plot. A \$20 deposit is required and will be refunded when a gardener decides not to continue renting and plot clean-up is completed.

**How will plots be assigned?** Plots will be assigned first to returning gardeners, next to church members, then to community residents. Assignments in each group will be on a first-come, first-assigned basis. Sign-up deadlines are: February 11th for returning gardeners and February 11<sup>th</sup> for FPC-SSP members who want to join the garden.

**Are the gardens organic?** Gardeners must agree to use only organic gardening methods. Commercial chemical products, including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, are not allowed in this garden for 2 reasons. First, they are poisonous and pose a threat to animals, plants and insects beyond the target pest. Second, insecticides and herbicides may drift to neighboring garden plots. Therefore, only products which are certified as organic can be used. A list of acceptable organic products will be available.

**What about people who have never gardened before?** One of the greatest benefits of community gardening is learning from other gardeners. Master Gardeners will teach free classes and demonstrate organic gardening methods in their Seed Trial Garden. There will be other experienced gardeners who will be glad to share their knowledge and skills with gardening novices.

**How much time does gardening take?** Gardening is fun, but it's also hard work. You have to weed, harvest, and maintain your plot. If you are going to be out of town for an extended period, you'll have to arrange for someone to tend your plot. Gardening also demands more time at different points in the season than others. If you don't think you can tend to your plot twice a week, consider sharing with someone else.

**What are the gardener's responsibilities?** ~Be a good neighbor by following the rules and maintaining your plot. ~ Perform the required hours of service for the community garden. ~ Enjoy the garden and the community of gardeners!

**What about deer and rabbits?** The 8' fence and the gate are meant to keep out deer and rabbits.

**Is water available?** There are 4 water spigots and hoses. In order to minimize water use and keep rental fees low, gardeners are asked to use water wisely and to mulch plants and paths.

**When can I start gardening?** That will be determined by weather. You are welcome to begin gardening as soon as weather permits. This year we will be adding chips to the paths and the plots on the north end need to have sulfur tilled into the soil.

**What about theft?** Many community gardens experience at least a little theft or vandalism. Gardeners have found that theft diminished with signs and outreach to neighbors to tell them about the garden and invite them to get plots. Fences can also help. We hope that our locked gate and 8' fence will prevent problems. So far, we have had no problems.

**Are the gardens tilled?** Gardeners are responsible for rototilling their own plots.

**Is there a restroom?** When the church is open, the restroom is available. When the church isn't open, it is not.

**Are pets allowed?** No, gardeners are not allowed to bring pets into the garden except for service animals.

**Who can attend the Master Gardeners' gardening classes?** The classes are free and open to anyone. If you are interested in attending, watch the calendar of the church website: [www.fpcssp.org](http://www.fpcssp.org) We will also notify you by e-mail.

**Important 2018 Dates:**

- February 11 Application deadline for returning gardeners.
- February 11 Application deadline for FPC-SSP Members.
- February 18 Remaining plots will be available to people on waiting list and then to new applicants.
- April 8 Garden Kickoff Meeting, Knox Room at First Presbyterian Church - 1 p.m.
- April 19 Last day to cancel application and receive full refund. After this date, only deposit is returned.
- May 5 Spring Work Day tentatively scheduled. More details later
- Oct. 13 Fall Cleanup tentatively scheduled.

**Steering Committee Meetings on First Sundays at noon in Knox Room, FPC-SSP (March 4, April 8, May 6, June 3, July 8, August 5)**