

COMMUNITY GARDEN LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

We hope that the Community Gardens hosted by the Modesto Church of the Brethren will provide a place for individuals, families, and other non-commercial groups to rent plots for the growing of flowers, vegetables, and fruits, as well as promote neighborliness and build a sense of community.

The following guidelines and understanding will govern use of the Community Garden. Garden plots may be reassigned if a gardener has not abided by this understanding, becomes inactive, if rental fees have not been paid, or if not renewed by the gardener.

All fees and deposits shall be paid prior to being assigned your plot(s).

The fees/schedule is as follows:

- Fall/Winter gardening for the period between November and February is \$40.
- Spring/Summer gardening for the period between March and October is \$80.
- Annual gardening (one year) is \$100.

There is a deposit of \$20 per plot required when a plot is rented which shall be returned at the end of your rental period if the plot is cleaned of all debris (vegetation and equipment). If the plot is not cleaned at the end of your use, the deposit shall not be returned.

Please let us know when you no longer want to garden the space. If we know, we can assign the space to someone else to garden that may be on the waiting list, or plan accordingly. If we notice that a plot is not being used or cared for during a period of 30 days, we will attempt to contact you by phone and in writing. If no gardening activity is taken within 15 days of contact, your plot will be considered to be “abandoned” and may be assigned to someone else.

Waitlisted gardeners will be offered plots in the order in which the registrations were received.

We ask that all gardeners are respectful and neighborly.

As a respectful gardener, I will keep all my plants within the garden plot limits and will keep the plot and surrounding areas well tended.

Please do not smoke, or bring any illegal items, alcohol or weapons into the garden area.

I will accompany any guests and visitors I bring to the garden and will be responsible of their conduct at the Community Garden.

Grow only items that are legal under applicable law, regardless of any personal situations or certifications you may have.

Please do not plant any trees or hard to remove plants.

If you are unhappy with your plot for any reason, please let us know and we will work to improve the situation. If we are unable to reach an adequate resolution, we will gladly refund the balance of your rental fee, and the deposit once your plot has been cleaned up.

It is recommended, when possible, to hand remove or wash insects off plants. If it becomes necessary to use a pesticide, please ask your local nursery or another gardener for tips or for a mild pesticide. Be very careful with the pesticides and don't let any of it drift onto your neighboring gardens, as some of our gardeners may be Organic only growers or be allergic to certain pesticides. It is always a good idea to ask your neighbor if they would mind.

I will abide by City of Modesto water rules that affect the church property. **Water will only be available during designated times** (Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays: 6:00 a.m.- noon or 6:00pm-10:00 p.m.) Access will be provided to water at each plot. The church does not guarantee that sufficient water will be available for your crops to grow, as the city may change or limit watering based on overall conditions, or weather may prove too harsh for certain crops to grow.

Please keep all items (hoses, tools, plants, etc.) out of walkways and plots that are not currently rented by you.

Anything left in the garden area is done so at your own risk. Please label your items so that if another gardener borrows it, the tool can be returned to you if misplaced. Leaving tools and other items in the garden is done at your own risk. Although we do not foresee this as a problem, the church is not responsible for any lost or missing items.

You may deposit your compostable materials into the designated bins. Never leave tools, trash, wood, metal, or anything big in the composting area.

I understand that neither the Community Garden nor the Modesto Church of the Brethren, as owners of the land, are responsible for my actions. I understand that I am using the church facility and Community Garden space at my own risk, and the church provides no supervision or control over the property as it is used by gardeners. I agree to not hold the church liable for and thus, hold harmless the church for any injuries or accidents which may occur while using the church facility or community garden. I also agree to indemnify not only the church, but also its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims or damages in connection with my use of the church facility.

By renting a plot at the Community Garden, I agree to the policies laid out in the understanding as listed above. I understand that if I break these rules, my gardening and plot rights may be terminated.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Plots Assigned: _____ **Date:** _____

<i>For church use only</i>	
Date application received: _____	Received by: _____
Plot(s) Assigned: _____	
Amount received: _____	Deposit _____ Plot Fees _____
Method of Payment (if paid by check, indicate check #): _____	