

Parsonage Standards

6. Parsonage Standards

The parsonage is the primary/required method of housing for pastors, churches and pastoral charges. In some settings the parsonage has been sold and a housing allowance is provided in accordance with the Book of Discipline as part of the support package for the pastor. At each appointment change, the housing allowance/parsonage requirement will be evaluated. The church/charge will need to be prepared to return to a parsonage provision if the situation requires it. Minimum standards for new parsonages and suggested standards for remodeling parsonages are:

- A) Kitchen provided with stove; refrigerator with freezer compartment; sufficient cabinets and work top space; garbage disposal or availability of garbage/trash service; floor covering.
- B) General physical condition and decoration excellent, both inside and out.
- C) Storm windows; storm doors; central heat and air conditioning; TV antenna.
- D) Automatic hot and cold water.
- E) Three bedroom minimum, each at least 144 square feet, with built in closet.
- F) Garage: minimum of 336 square feet, storage space in basement, utility room, or garage.
- G) Adequate wiring, with minimum of 100-ampere entrance.
- H) Floors should be hardwood finish or properly covered.
- I) Study, office, or den other than bedroom, with built-in shelving. (Outside entrance desirable.) If adequate facilities for study or office are provided in the church, similar facilities in the parsonage are optional.
- J) Minimum of one full bath on each floor with sleeping quarters; minimum total of one and one-half baths.
- K) Shades, venetian blinds or drapes furnished, draw drapes in living and dining areas.
- L) Appropriately landscaped; sufficient yard space.
- M) Space and connections for automatic washer, dryer, deep freezer.
- N) Every parsonage must meet the uniform building code regarding smoke or fire alarm systems.
- O) Parsonages should be accessible through at least one outside entrance and have at least one accessible bedroom, full bath and laundry facilities on the ground floor. (§254.3 and 4.)
- P) Every parsonages should have in place a carbon monoxide detector. (Book of Resolutions, p. 80)