

Proposed “Snow Day” Policy for St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church

Proposed Policy for “Snow Days”

1. The Planned or Advertised Service or Event will be cancelled if the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Winter Storm Warning that includes the words “only travel in an emergency.”
 - a. If the NWS issues either a Winter Weather (Storm) Advisory or Winter Weather (Storm) Warning, the Vicar and Wardens will determine the best course of action and communicate that decision as early as possible. (See 2.f. below)
 - b. Members and Friends will be expected to exercise good judgment if the NWS issues either a Winter Weather/Storm Advisory or Watch.
2. Every reasonable effort will be made by the Vicar and the Wardens to have St. Hugh’s ready for the planned worship or event if it has snowed, is snowing, or if snow is forecast to start before the conclusion of the worship or event.
 - a. The Parking Lot will be plowed
 - b. Walkways and ramps will be cleared and salted if necessary
 - c. The heat will be on
 - d. Able-bodied helpers will be recruited to assist folks from their cars to the building as needed.
 - e. The Vicar and Wardens will recruit (and maintain a list of) Volunteers who will assist other Members (and/or Guests) to get to and from church if it has snowed, is snowing, or if snow is forecast to start before the conclusion of the worship or event.
 - i. The List of Volunteers will be made available to all Members via the Directory.
 - f. The Vicar and Wardens (or their designees) will be the point of contact (phone or email) for up-to-the-minute information about the status of worship or an event.
 - i. Phone and Email Contact for the Vicar and the Wardens will be prominent in the Directory.
 - ii. If one or more of these three persons are not available, the contact information for their designee(s) will be prominent in the Directory.
3. This proposed policy—awaiting your comments and suggestions—will be finalized at the January 2017 BC Meeting. It is a first effort to have a standard policy about Snow Days. It is a first effort to set up a reliable source of information for those seeking information. It is a first effort to develop and distribute a reliable list of helpers when the snow comes.

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Background

1. Winter Storm Warnings from the National Weather Service are issued in order to keep individuals and communities safe and healthy. The Winter Storm Warning includes this line: "... SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF SNOW ARE FORECAST THAT WILL MAKE TRAVEL DANGEROUS. ONLY TRAVEL IN AN EMERGENCY."
 - a. Attending and participating in worship is very important, but not an emergency.
 - b. An additional line of information that usually accompanies the Winter Storm Warning advises those who must travel (even a few miles from home to church): "IF YOU MUST TRAVEL...KEEP AN EXTRA FLASHLIGHT... FOOD...AND WATER IN YOUR VEHICLE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY."
 - c. Advisories and Watches issued by the NWS usually encourage the individual to be aware and use good judgment about travel.
2. Since 2014 our congregation has grown in size and average attendance at our services. Communicating with all Members has become a challenge as we have grown. Even though we are a small community within a small rural community, getting the message (of any sort) to all our Members is challenging. Naturally this is a cause for frustration and/or anger for those who didn't hear or get the message.
3. In 2015, due to snow and ice, the Senior Warden and Vicar made the decision to cancel a Sunday Service. In 2016, due to snow and ice, the Senior Warden and Vicar made the decision to cancel a Sunday Service and the Christmas Eve Service (the Junior Warden concurring about Christmas Eve).
4. In all instances of cancellation, despite good faith efforts to communicate to all, some of our Members heard about the cancellation and some did not. Visitors to the Hill, of course, did not hear. In all instances (since we are good Episcopalians) some Members agreed with the decision (and were happy and/or relieved) and some disagreed with the decision (and were disappointed and/or angry).
5. In the latest cancellation (December 24, 2016) some Members had volunteered to taxi other Members to and from St. Hugh's. Even with a good faith effort to communicate this, some Members knew of this offer, and others did not.
6. Cancelling a Sunday Service, and cancelling our Christmas Eve Service 2016, has a financial impact. This is always part of the decision making process.
7. Bishop's Committee Contact Information for your comments and suggestions:
 - a. Fr. Dan (Vicar)760-285-0834 drondeau910@gmail.com
 - b. Jacque (Sr. Warden)951-659-6276 jacqueswerdfeger@gmail.com
 - c. Jim Sales (Jr. Warden)503-422-9172 jes97209@gmail.com
 - d. Joy Woodman.....951-659-8339 popcornjoy@icloud.com
 - e. Jeff Turner949-633-8157 jeffhturner@sbcglobal.net
 - f. Chris Knutson951-527-0043 knot@msn.com