

NARRATIVE FOR APPLICATION

Wesley United Methodist Church sponsors and provides facilities for a Mother's Day Out Program. The purpose of the program is to provide interaction and socialization for pre-school children of the church and community where they can grow in a safe Christian environment. The program is self-supporting with the financial records being audited annually by an appointee of Wesley United Methodist Church as part of the church's annual audit. Oversight of the program is guided by a Subgroup consisting of at least one member of Wesley's Leadership Board, at least two members of the congregation, and the Director of Mother's Day Out. The Director is a part of the church staff, salaried through Wesley United Methodist Church with supervision and oversight by the Subgroup. Director will provide an annual report for the church Charge Conference.

Mother's Day Out has been a program of outreach from the congregation of Wesley UMC since the spring of 1973, shortly after the opening of the new pre-school/education wing of the building facility. It was begun as a means for mothers to have morning time and for children to gather with other children under the watchful eye of other mothers and church members in a safe Christian environment. It has remained a source for mothers, fathers, and families to have mornings available to them while their children engage in play and exploration with other children with qualified adults as their guide.

This outreach program of Wesley reaches children and families in the community of Hampton with quality care engaging in play and environmental exploration and peer interaction for the purpose of offering families the opportunity to have a few hours each day to order their lives. It strengthens the children through everyday connections. It offers care for the parents and families in the gift of time. It offers experienced leaders for the children.

The Mother's Day Out Program of Wesley United Methodist Church runs through the school year serving up to 25 children (up to 40 for family parties or gatherings for special occasion) ages 2 to 5, 9 AM - 12:30 PM, Monday - Friday. This program is a faith based, congregational program for families in the community for their daily routine of child related activities and family life balance and an expression of the church's mission to "serve all people with the love of Jesus Christ" by providing a safe environment where all God's children can play, grow, and interact.

The total square footage of the church building is found on the plat, of which two classroom spaces and a nursery are utilized Monday - Friday. There is an outdoor playground and the fellowship hall is utilized for play when outside is not accessible due to weather. The program has a paid director and two to three care givers as needed based on child enrollment.

The church hosts numerous activities and programs throughout the week in the same building. Some regular activities during the day include Sunday morning worship, a Tuesday/Thursday Chair Yoga Class, a Wednesday fitness class, and a Tuesday prayer group. There are evening meetings and activities as well as special activities that occur on weekends. There are 93 parking spaces, six of which are designated handicapped. Parking during the daylight hours is generally available and open. The parking area is easily accessible with the ability to enter and exit either from Tidemill Lane or N. Armistead Ave.

Essentially the impact and integration of this program into the community has existed continuously for 45 years. The Mother's Day Out program was a part of the inception of the educational wing of Wesley and part of the building use of the whole property. Wesley UMC would like to see this vital program continue its positive impact with this application to be compliant with current Hampton City and Virginia Codes as they have been presently interpreted to us through the Zoning & Planning Office, October 2018.