

FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) offers incredible opportunities to connect with people, to build relationships, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As we work together to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ, here are a few guidelines to encourage the intentional and appropriate use of the various forms of social media by faith communities.

1. When using social media, observe the following:
 - a. First, do no harm.
 - b. Second, do good.
 - c. Third, love your neighbor as yourself.
2. Be professional and maintain the integrity of the leadership of the church through social media.
3. Maintain and monitor your faith community's social media.
 - a. The pastor or a session designated individual needs to be an administrator of your social media accounts. Numerous other folks may serve as administrators and editors, too.
 - b. Properly vet and train anyone who will serve as an administrator or editor.
4. If you are not sure about appropriate use of social media, ask for help. If you're not sure about a post, do not post it.
 - a. Know your spoof news sites (i.e. Babylon Bee) and avoid reposting their articles without a disclaimer.
 - b. To avoid sharing untrue news, double check sources when reposting an article.
5. Be respectful, collegial, and intentional of other's privacy.
 - a. It is a good rule of thumb not to share prayer concerns on social media. Instead, provide a space for people to make requests if they desire for a prayer concern to be public.
 - b. If someone is argumentative or overly negative in the comment section of a post and you feel the need to respond, do so via direct messaging.
6. Protect the safety of congregants, minors, and vulnerable adults.
 - a. Secure permission in writing from parents of minors before posting pictures.
 - b. Don't initiate friend requests to minors. Allow them the opportunity to initiate the request. AVOID private messaging between you and a minor. Create group chats to answer questions..
7. Remember your Christian witness and allow the use of social media to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

APPROVED on March 12, 2020