



# E A S T M I N S T E R

## P R E S B Y T E R I A N

### Covenant Family Agreement For Eastminster Day School Parents

#### Parents' Guide

#### **I. The Covenant Family policy was implemented by the Session of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in November 2013 with the following in mind.**

- A. The **Covenant Family Agreement** is implemented to encourage and acknowledge Eastminster Presbyterian Church (EPC) member parents who are trying to be intentional in the faith formation of their children by allowing them registration priority and discounted tuition for their children in Eastminster Day School (EDS).
- B. EDS parents grow in faith and shape their children's faith through participation in the EPC community evidenced by attendance and serving beyond themselves in Christ's work.
- C. EDS is possible through the substantial resources provided by EPC. Contributions to EPC support this mission of the church. The discounted tuition allowed to **Covenant Families** of EPC recognizes that they are a vital part of the life of Eastminster in worship, stewardship, and service.
- D. The **Covenant Family Agreement** discourages the intent of some parents to join Eastminster Presbyterian Church simply to receive priority for admission to Eastminster Day School.

#### **II. The Covenant Family Agreement defines quantitative minimum requirements for worship attendance, giving, and service. Parents who meet the minimum requirements are allowed registration priority and discounted tuition.**

##### **A. Worship Attendance**

- 1. The attendance of a husband and wife must be 34 times per year. A couple can meet this collectively. For example, over the course of 52 Sundays, a husband attending 19 times and a wife 15 times would be 34 times, therefore meeting the threshold.
- 2. A single church member parent must attend 17 times per year.
- 3. The Peace service and Christmas Eve service are also recognized worship attendance.
- 4. Your signature on the Friendship Register which is passed at all Sunday worship services is the record of your attendance. Noting that you are an EDS parent on the register will expedite the process.
- 5. When signing the Friendship Register as a family, please be sure to clearly indicate whether one or both parents are present.
- 6. Serving in the nursery or Children's Church on your scheduled day will be recognized as worship attendance. Parents must document this service online through the EDS website ([www.eastminsterdayschool.org](http://www.eastminsterdayschool.org)).

GATHERING TOGETHER  REACHING OUT

## **B. Giving**

1. The minimum financial contribution is an average contribution of \$25.00 per week, which is \$1300 per year.
2. Contributions should be made in EPC church offering envelopes, by personalized check, or by online giving or bank draft, to ensure they are appropriately recorded.
3. Only the EPC treasurer and senior administrators know an individual's contributions to EPC. Eastminster Day School Council members and Eastminster Day School administrators will only know whether a parent has met the minimum requirements for the **Covenant Family Agreement**.

## **C. Service**

1. One parent must participate in an EPC opportunity for service at least once quarterly.
2. Service opportunities are published in the EPC Update and on the website.
3. Serving at your scheduled Sunday morning nursery duty, Children's Church duty, or as a Sunday School teacher counts as a service opportunity. Parents must document this completed service online through the EDS website ([www.eastminsterdayschool.org](http://www.eastminsterdayschool.org)).
4. You must complete and submit the form found under quick links on the home page of the EDS website ([www.eastminsterdayschool.org](http://www.eastminsterdayschool.org)) within two weeks of serving.
5. Parents who are Elders or Deacons must note that service on the website as above.

## **III. Covenant Family requirements are reviewed twice each year.**

### **A. In January, requirements are reviewed for the previous calendar year, ending December 31<sup>st</sup>. At this time, parents must have met the full yearly minimum requirements of 34 worship attendances, \$1300 in giving, and 4 completed services opportunities.**

1. Conforming Covenant Family Parents (meaning those who have met all the requirements as of December 31<sup>st</sup>) who wish to enroll a child for the first time, have priority over other EPC families and non-church member families.
2. Conforming Covenant Family Parents who are re-enrolling current students:
  - A. have priority for status changes when re-enrolling. Status changes are Full-time to Part-time, Part-time to Full-time, Two-day to Three-day, Three-day to Two-day
  - B. will continue to receive discounted tuition for January through June.
  - C. have priority for registration for their children who are siblings.
3. Nonconforming Covenant Family Parents (meaning those who have not met all the requirements as of December 31<sup>st</sup>) of currently enrolled children:
  - A. have no priority for status changes when re-enrolling.
  - B. will pay the higher tuition rate for January through June.
  - C. will register their children who are siblings of currently enrolled students in the EPC Church Member/Non-church Member category.

**B. In June, the previous five months ending May 31<sup>st</sup>, are reviewed to determine parents' progress towards meeting the minimum requirements. At this time, parents must have attended worship 14 times, given \$550, and completed 2 service opportunities.**

1. Conforming Covenant Family Parents (meaning those who have met all the requirements as of May 31<sup>st</sup>) of a child **registered to attend for the first time** in the upcoming school year:

A. Will retain their child's spot for the upcoming school year.

B. Will pay the lower tuition rate for July through December.

2. Non-conforming Covenant Family Parents (meaning those who have not met all the requirements as of May 31<sup>st</sup>) of a child **registered to attend for the first time** in the upcoming school year:

A. Will forfeit their child's spot at EDS if there is a child on the waiting list whose parents have

met all requirements of the Covenant Family Agreement.

B. Parents will be notified, by U.S. Mail and e-mail, as soon as possible after the May 31<sup>st</sup> review, if their child's spot has been forfeited. Parents should ensure that accurate contact information is always on file with the EDS office.

C. Parents who feel they have extenuating circumstances that prevented their meeting the requirements may appear **in person** before an Appeals Committee composed of members of the EPC Session.

D. Parents who wish to appeal should contact the EDS Council Chair, either at [edscouncil@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:edscouncil@eastminsterpres.org), or by phone through the EDS office, 803.771.1512, **within five days of notification of forfeiture**, to schedule an appearance before the Appeals Committee.

3. Conforming Covenant Family Parents of a returning student will pay the lower tuition rate for July through December.

4. Non-conforming Covenant Family Parents of a returning student will pay the higher tuition rate for July through December.

**C. The worship attendance, serving, and giving thresholds are intentionally set at modest levels. Our hope is that parents will exceed all three measures. However, as a community of faith, we wish to support our members who are experiencing difficult times. Appeals (other than those specified in III.B.2. above) should be made in writing to the EDS Council at [edscouncil@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:edscouncil@eastminsterpres.org).**

**IV. Parents who wish to participate in the Covenant Family Opportunity must sign the agreement acknowledging that they have read and understand the *Covenant Family Agreement Parents' Guide*.**

November 1, 2014



EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
A HOME FOR ALL - WITH A HEART FOR CHRIST

**Covenant Family Agreement  
For Eastminster Day School Parents**

The \_\_\_\_\_ family would like to engage in the Covenant Family Agreement. I/We have reviewed the Covenant Family minimums of attendance, service and giving and understand that in order to receive priority admission and reduced tuition, these minimums must be met and continue to be maintained. I/We understand that these minimums will be reviewed twice yearly – once in January and then again in June. I/We understand that it will also be the parent’s responsibility to properly document these minimums. I/We understand that by submitting this form we indicate our desire to participate as a Covenant Family.

**Eastminster Presbyterian Church Member Parent 1:**

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Eastminster Presbyterian Church Member Parent 2:**

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this signed Agreement in person or by mail to the EDS Council via the  
Eastminster Day School office, 3200 Trenholm Road, Columbia, SC 29204.

+++++

Date received by EDS Council via the EDS office: \_\_\_\_\_

## Covenant Family Opportunity for Eastminster Members

Criteria for Admission Priority & Discounted Tuition for Eastminster Day School Parents

COMPONENTS	REVIEW	TIME PERIOD EVALUATED	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
1. ATTENDANCE (at Worship)	January	Previous calendar year	34 (if both parents are EPC Members) 17 (if only one parent is EPC Member)	At each worship service, parents must sign the Friendship Register. When signing as a family, please be sure to clearly indicate whether one or both parents are present.
2. SERVICE	January	Previous calendar year	4	When each service opportunity is completed, parents must file it online at <a href="http://www.eastminsterday.school.org">www.eastminsterday.school.org</a> . Click on <i>EDS Membership and Service Record</i> .
3. GIVING	January	Previous calendar year	\$1,300	Parents must make recordable contributions to the General Fund of EPC.
	June	Previous January 1-May 31	2	
	June	Previous January 1-May 31	\$550	

**This Covenant Family Opportunity is offered as an encouragement and acknowledgement for EPC parents being intentional in the faith formation of their children.**