

First Parish Church of Stow and Acton
Policy on Nut-Aware Environment Policy
#_018__ Revision #_04_

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Trustees designates all FPC buildings and on-campus events as being nut-aware. The purpose is maintaining a safe environment and continuing being welcoming to all, including those with peanut and/or tree nut allergies. It is not a guarantee that all members, friends, guests, volunteers, contractors, staff or any one else who enters the building will comply.

This policy repeals the previous policy #18 Policy on Nut-Free Environment Policy and replaces it.

II. SCOPE

The intent of this policy is to create a nut-aware environment through education of members, guests, volunteers and staff. This policy does require the need for the person with an allergy to be diligent.

The Religious Education program may have more stringent policies for food at their programs and events, and in religious education spaces. Members are asked to review Religious Education policies regarding nuts before bringing items to their events and in their spaces.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of Trustees or its designate is responsible for communicating this policy by posting:

1. An electronic copy of the FPC Members and Friends/Documents section of the church website.
2. Placing a hard copy of this policy in the FPC kitchen and all other areas in the building where food is served.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Nut-aware: this means that peanuts and tree nuts may be served at the First Parish Church of Stow and Acton, but at all church events all foods, regardless of nut content, should be labeled with ingredients, and at events with food where space permits, a nut-free table should be designated. At rental events, renters shall be informed of this policy, but not required to adhere to the labeling and table requirements.

Peanut: a legume that grows in the ground Tree nut:

Nuts that grow on trees, including almond beech nut, brazil nut, butternut, cashew, chestnut (Chinese, American, European, Seguin), chinquapin, coconut, filbert/hazelnut, ginko nut, hickory

nut, lichee nut, macadamia nut/bush nut, pecan, pine nut/pinon nut, pili nut, pistachio, sheanut, walnut (English, Persian, Black, Japanese, California), heartnut, and any other nut as defined by the FDA.

<https://www.fda.gov/industry/fda-basics-industry/section-201qq-act-defines-termmajorhttps://www.fda.gov/industry/fda-basics-industry/section-201qq-act-defines-termmajor-food-allergen-includetree-nuts-addition-three-examplesfood-allergen-includetree-nuts-addition-three-examples>

V. REFERENCES

FDA Information on food-allergies

<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/searchfda-guidance-documents/guidancehttps://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/searchfda-guidance-documents/guidance-industry-questions-and-answers-regarding-foodallergens-edition-4industry-questions-and-answers-regarding-food-allergens-edition-4>

Add references from Leah....

Frequently asked Questions:

Q. Will this change our risk of legal issues?

A. While our insurance provider did not have any concerns with our previous nut-free policy, we felt that we were giving a false sense of security in declaring ourselves nut-free.

Q. Are we expected to provide food labeling/Ingredient lists?

A. Yes, we are asking that all foods contain a label/ingredient list.

Q. What are the guidelines are for commercially- prepared food brought in?

A. For prepackaged foods, we ask that food labels be readable, and nut information transformed onto a larger label by the food. For foods prepared fresh by a caterer, restaurants, or grocery stores, members are asked to request and bring a ingredient list.

Q. If an FPC event is off campus, for example a service auction dinner, are we now expected to adhere to the nut-aware policy with regards to tables and labeling? A. No, we do not expect all off campus events to adhere to this policy. We hope that you will ask your guests about their dietary restrictions but that is up to the host/hostess.

Q. What about products that are sold at FPC evdents?

A. For products in sealed packaging with labels,additional labeling does not need to be done.

Q. Does this policy extend to our renters?

A. We will communicate our policy in our rental agreements. We do not plan to police or monitor this policy but we hope renters will take it seriously and we will continue to clean the building and facility with procedures already in place.

Q. Why tree nuts and peanuts and no other allergens? A. We know that there are adults and children in our congregation who have life threatening allergies to tree nuts and peanuts, so that is the issue we are currently trying to address, but our nut-aware policy will bring information on other allergens, such as gluten, forward as well.

Q. What about hand soap?

A. It was brought to our attention that sometimes there is hand soap in the restrooms with almond or shea in it. We will continue to no longer purchase these for church use and we ask members to be aware if they are donating items for use in the church bathrooms or kitchen.

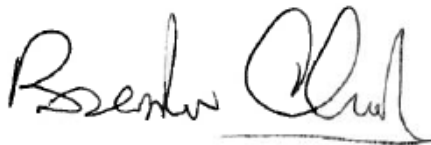
VI. APPROVAL SIGNATURES

Lynda Layer for original 2018 version

Katy Weeks 3/17/21 for the reformatted version

Sharon Brownfield 4/26/22 version 3

Version 4: Change from Nut-Free to Nut-Aware



12/18/24

Brendon Chetwynd, President

Date