



Residential Community Covenant

Mid-Valley Fellowship (MVF) is a place known for God's healing and restoration for those seeking sexual wholeness. The Residential Community is an intentional community designed to facilitate healthy relationships with others, which is a foundation of sexual wholeness.

The Staff of Mid-Valley Fellowship is providing this document as a starting point for those becoming part of the Residential Community. We want every Resident to be well-prepared and aware of the community that they are a part of. These guidelines will not cover every situation, but will be an important foundation for the season ahead.

Expectations of Mid-Valley Fellowship

The MVF House would not be possible without the ministry partners of Mid-Valley Fellowship. Our supporters and Board of Directors expect the Residents in the house to devote themselves to health and wholeness. Because Residents will be associated with the MVF House and Office, it is at all times essential to maintain conduct that glorifies God and speaks well of the ministry.

We live in a time of tremendous controversy about sexual issues. House Residents may be drawn into discussions concerning legislation and public policy. While everyone has a right to express his or her opinion, no Resident should claim to speak for Mid-Valley Fellowship and should carefully evaluate any remarks by comparing them against the Mission Statement of Mid-Valley Fellowship.

Community Life

Living in community is both an opportunity and a challenge. It often requires us to have a heightened awareness of each other's needs, as well as our own needs. We must practice patience, humility, and self-control with each other when others are not living up to our expectations or when we realize others may have unrealistic or unhealthy expectations of us. Though difficult at times, community life offers each of us the opportunity to simultaneously invest in others and in return be poured into ourselves. The level of hard work you invest in this Community is often directly tied to the level of blessing and growth you receive. Be a giver as well as a receiver.

Attention to small things will be important in our relationships. Experience has shown that community life requires careful attention to such ordinary things as housekeeping, quiet time, and other ways by which we show respect for one another. Additionally, relational dangers like emotional dependency and co-dependency can easily develop and wreak terrible consequences.

Together, we will be diligent to hold each other accountable to maintain healthy relationships in this community.

The following are our House Rules (which may be amended by community consensus and staff approval).

Concerning Conduct

Personal conduct must be above reproach. Serious infractions may result in eviction from the house.

- Your residence in the MVF House is contingent upon your participation in the Residential Growth Program. Currently, participation in the Residential Growth Program includes active involvement in the weekly House Meeting, any reading or other homework from the House Meeting, and rotating responsibility for providing the shared meal at the House Meeting. Residents are allowed one unscheduled absence from the House Meeting in a 3-month period. Additional absences will result in disciplinary action which may include eviction from the house. An absence is unscheduled if the Resident does not communicate their status (via the Resident Response Form) at least 4 hours in advance of the meeting or is absent for reasons other than illness or pre-scheduled travel.
- The Residential Community will remain a safe and respectful community. We require that you treat each other with respect and love. Verbal, emotional, or physical abuse of any kind will not be tolerated and may result in eviction from the house. Model Christian love and deference to one another.
- Bedrooms are private areas. Residents will refrain from entering another's bedroom without permission. If other Residents or guests are invited in, please leave the door open at all times. Guests with whom there is romantic interest or desire (girlfriend/boyfriend, fiancé, attraction, etc.) are not allowed in resident bedrooms. No Resident should be in another's room during quiet hours.
- Residents are asked to dress appropriately when around the house, attending House Meetings, appointments, and when in the MVF Office.
- Regular church attendance is required.
- Honor God and others with your words. Profanity is not acceptable speech.
- Do not harbor offenses. If there is an offense, even towards a staff member, address it promptly and maturely.
- Dating or the pursuit of a romantic relationship is prohibited between residents in the MVF House. Any sexual or strong emotional desires toward other Residents need to be discussed with a staff member, not with the person to whom you are attracted.
- Legally obtained and licensed firearms or other weapons are permitted to be stored in a Resident's room, provided they are secured under lock and key.
- The use of alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs, the misuse of prescription drugs and the use or possession of pornographic materials (including such use of the internet), and the frequenting of places that are in obvious contradiction to the standards of this ministry (such

as gay clubs, porn shops, sex clubs) are prohibited and will result in disciplinary action which may include eviction from the house.

Concerning Attitude

We want the time in the Residential Community to be a time of great growth and encouragement for everyone in the Community. It is important to take seriously the impact that you, as an individual, have on the entire Community. We ask that you commit to the following principles in guiding your individual contribution to the Community.

- *Remain faithful.* It is inevitable that you may want to quit, hide, detach, or sabotage your journey at some point. DO NOT! Although this community is not perfect and there may at times be valid reasons for wanting to end involvement, The One who brought you to this community **is** perfect and has a perfect plan for you being here. Trust Him and stay engaged.
- *Be gracious.* Living in community, offense is unavoidable. People will offend you. What you do with that offense will shape both you as an individual, and the community as a whole, either for the good or for the bad. Be extravagant with forgiveness, mercy, and kindness.
- *Be honest.* It is in our fallen nature to conceal uncomfortable truths, whether that be our own sin struggles, our needs, or offenses against us. Be committed to telling the truth about yourself and speaking the truth, in love, to one another.
- *Be humble.* You have a lot to learn from the other people in this Community, however, you will not be able to receive anything from those around you if you are ruled by pride. Stay humble and learn from one another. You will have needs that this Community can help meet. Learn to both ask for and receive from those around you.
- *Be brave.* You will be challenged to take risks, such as looking deeply at painful aspects of your past, stepping out of dysfunctional ways of relating and coping, learning new ways of expressing yourself, and stretching yourself out of comfortable habits and patterns. Embrace the challenges!
- *Be grateful! Be joyful!* Your time in the Residential Community is a gift from God, who has brought together the members of this Community, has provided this house, and has put into place the needed resources, both for you and the ministry itself. We have a responsibility to accept God's blessing both for ourselves and others. This responsibility is to be undertaken joyfully and with continuing gratitude.
- *Be patient! Be available!* Our covenant with each other (Staff, Residents, and Board) calls us to be available to the Lord – constantly and consistently – for whatever He wishes to do among us.

Concerning MVF Facilities

Living in the Residential Community is a unique experience. It will be both your home and a place of ministry. Blending the two requires adherence to guidelines that will keep things working in harmony:

- Quiet time is from 10pm to 7am. During quiet time, headphones must be used when listening to music, watching TV, or using other media. Conversations should be respectful of people sleeping.
- Bedrooms should be kept relatively clean and orderly. Garbage, dirty dishes, and old food must be removed promptly.
- Please check with other residents about using shared community space before inviting guests over. Guests may stay in the house until 10pm. Overnight guests **must** be approved by a staff member in writing and the other Residents notified of the arrangement at least a week in advance.
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted on the property. If you choose to smoke, you must walk off the property. For fire safety reasons, cooking appliances, candles, and lamps with an open flame are not permitted in the bedrooms.
- Regular fire drills will be held (quarterly or at a frequency determined by the Staff) and participation by all persons on location is mandatory. Please familiarize yourself with the Fire Escape Plan posted inside all resident rooms, including assembly instructions after exiting the building. Tampering with or disabling smoke detectors or the alarm system will result in a fine of \$100.
- The kitchen is for the use of the Residents and Staff. Out of courtesy and respect, please keep the kitchen clean and make sure you clean up after yourself. Do not leave dishes or pots and pans for others to clean. If there are unwashed items or food left out in the kitchen, there may be a cleaning fine of \$30 per occurrence.
- Chore responsibilities will be shared according to a plan prepared by the Staff and posted on the Residential Website (mvf.house/residential). The completion of chores must be communicated via the Resident Response Form, prior to the House Meeting each week. Failure to fulfill scheduled responsibilities may be viewed as a breach of the Community Covenant. At the first occurrence, there will be a warning. At the second occurrence, there may be a cleaning fine of \$30. If the occurrences continue, they could result in eviction from the house.
- Food items are considered to be private property unless a Resident has offered them for community use (otherwise known as “fair game” or “FG”). Items in the freezer or refrigerator must be labeled with name and date. Failure to label with a name makes the item community property. Failure to label with the date makes the item subject to disposal by the person assigned cleaning responsibilities.
- When using the laundry facilities, please do not leave clothes in the machines for others to move. Laundry supplies are considered private property and should be labeled. Please keep the area clean and remove your laundry promptly.
- Only companion pets or those necessary for individuals with disabilities, as specified by a medical/mental health professional are permitted in the house.
- Please try to conserve water and electricity by taking short showers and turning off any lights when you leave an area of the house.
- When decorating bedrooms, please avoid puncturing the walls. Any decorating of common areas requires Staff approval.

- Please do not schedule social events at the MVF House without Staff approval and without informing the other Residents.
- Internet access can be problematic for some, consequently, any personal computers or tablets must have accountability or internet filter software installed.



- Off-street parking is provided for 3 resident vehicles, one per Resident. During Office Hours (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm), Residents are to use the gravel parking spaces first (#1-4), beginning with the space closest to Second Avenue (#1). If there will not be at least two spaces available after parking in the lot, Residents must park on the street. For both of these, the Handicapped Space (#8) is an exception. It may always be utilized by a car with a handicapped placard, and it does not count as an available space if it is open. Guests must utilize street parking.
- Devices, furniture, or appliances that may block emergency ingress/egress (entrance/exit) in bedrooms or may create a security risk must be approved and installed by the landlord. Depending on the nature of the security or safety risk posed, the device, furniture, or appliance may be removed by the landlord without prior notification.
- Common Areas, including the exterior of the building and outdoor spaces are the purview of the landlord and are to be maintained in an orderly fashion. Personal belongs are not to be left in Common Areas and alterations are not allowed to any Common Areas without landlord approval.
- On occasion, the MVF House may be used to host various gatherings. These dates will be communicated in advance.

When at the Mid-Valley Fellowship Office, please be mindful of the following:

- Individuals come regularly for confidential appointments. Their presence and relationship with MVF should be kept confidential.
- Please keep noise to a minimum around the office area.
- Offices are private space for our Staff. Please respect their workspace by entering their offices by appointment only or with specific permission from a Staff member.
- If you are engaged in casual conversation with Staff during office hours, please be mindful that their time is valuable. Try not to overstay your welcome.
- Use of MVF resources must be permitted by Staff.

Community Support

House logistical needs (maintenance, repairs, feature requests, supplies needed, etc.) are to be submitted to the Mid-Valley Fellowship Office using the Resident Response Form on the Residential Website (mvf.house/residential). Verbal, text, or email communication can be a

supplement to this form but not a replacement for it. Requests are not considered submitted or approved until the Resident Response Form has been submitted, reviewed, and approved.

The Mid-Valley Fellowship Staff will rotate on-call responsibilities for house emergencies that occur outside of regular business hours. Please see your Welcome Packet for specific contact information.

The Residential Program Facilitator will be responsible for administering the shared chores, maintaining the house rules, community logistics, and navigating minor conflicts (i.e. someone is not fulfilling their assigned chore or responsibility). This will typically take place in the context of the Weekly House Meeting. The overall relational health of the community will be overseen by MVF's Clinical Team.

What you can expect from Mid-Valley Fellowship

We are committed to maintaining a safe and encouraging environment for the Residential Community where you are free to experience the Lord's presence. We believe that all ministry and direction for life flows from being in the Lord's presence and by knowing Him more intimately. We believe that as we press deeper into the knowledge of God, we will discover His intended purpose for our lives.

We are committed to the process of change – constant change – as we follow Jesus in our journey of faith. Therefore, we will help people understand that their security is found in a deep and growing relationship with Jesus alone and not in a particular ministry or program. We will do our best to foster an environment where that relationship can flourish. Consequently, you can expect that your leadership will:

- remain committed to praying for you and seeking God's wisdom for how we lead you.
- remain approachable. If there is a frustration, an offense, or criticism, we will remain open to your thoughts and feelings.
- remain committed to a dynamic personal relationship with God, ministering out of the overflow of that relationship.
- make mistakes. We are human and fallible. However, you can expect that we will be humble and honest about those mistakes and will seek to correct them as soon as possible.