The GROVE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Grove United Methodist Church — Text Messaging Privacy Policy

Effective Date: October 21, 2026

The Grove United Methodist Church ("we," "us," or "our") respects your privacy. This Messaging Privacy Policy explains how we collect, use, and protect information associated with our SMS/text messaging communications delivered through our phone and database messaging services.

1. Information We Collect

We may collect and maintain information such as:

- Your name
- Your mobile phone number
- The content of text messages we send and receive
- Your consent or opt-in status
- Message delivery metadata (timestamps, delivery status)
- Technical information required by our phone and database companies.

2. How We Use Your Information

We use information associated with our text messaging services to:

- Communicate with you at your request
- Share information about church activities, ministries, and events
- Provide pastoral and congregational care
- Respond to questions, prayer requests, or logistical needs
- Operate and maintain our phone and messaging systems
- Comply with legal or regulatory requirements

3. Use of phone and database messaging

Our text messaging is delivered through POPP Communication (phone) and Amplify Ministry (database). These platforms may process:

- Your phone number
- Message content
- Delivery and routing information
- Opt-in/opt-out status

We do not authorize these providers to sell or use your information for marketing unrelated to church communication. They may store message data as required for system functionality, troubleshooting, or compliance.

4. Pastoral & Congregational Care
When you voluntarily communicate with pastors or ministry leaders by text message, the information you provide may be used to respond to your pastoral or care needs.
Please note:

- VOIP and Amplify Ministry involve third-party technology providers.
- We cannot guarantee that text messages are confidential in every circumstance.
- For sensitive matters, you may request a phone call or in-person conversation.

5. Youth & Minor Participants
We may communicate with 6th graders and up involved in church ministries.

- Communications follow our Student Safety Policy.
- Text messages to/from minors may be accessible to authorized church personnel.
- We do not collect a minor's phone number without parental consent.

6. Opting Out / Getting Help

- To stop receiving texts, reply STOP at any time.
- You may receive a confirmation message.
- For help, reply HELP or contact us at the church office.

7. How We Share Information
We do not sell your personal information. We may share information only with:

- Our phone and database providers.
- Church staff or ministry leaders who manage communication lists
- Law enforcement when legally required

We do not share text messaging opt-in data with third parties except as required to provide messaging services.

8. Data Retention
We retain personal information and message records only as long as reasonably necessary to fulfill the purposes described in this policy or as required by law.

11. Changes to This Policy
We may update this policy periodically. Material changes will be communicated through our website or text messaging system.

The Grove United Methodist Church — Website Terms and Conditions

Effective Date: October 21, 2026
Welcome to the website of The Grove United Methodist Church ("the Church," "we," "us," or "our"). By accessing or using this website ("Site"), you agree to these Terms & Conditions ("Terms"). If you do not

agree, please discontinue use of the Site. These Terms govern your use of our website, online content, digital communications, and any related services we provide.

1. Use of the Website
The Site is intended to provide information about our worship services, ministries, events, and community resources.

- You may browse the Site without creating an account.
- You agree to use the Site only for lawful purposes and in a manner consistent with Christian values.
- You may not use the Site to transmit harmful, defamatory, or inappropriate content.

3. Intellectual Property
All content on the Site are owned by the Church or its licensors and protected by copyright laws. You may not copy, sell, distribute, or modify any content without written permission.

4. Contact Forms & Communications
By submitting form or providing your information, you agree that:

- You are providing accurate and voluntary information.
- We may contact you using the information you provide.
- Your submission does not create a contractual or membership relationship.
- We do not sell or rent your personal information.

5. Email & SMS Communication Terms
By providing your mobile phone number and opting in to receive text messages, you consent to receive SMS (Short Message Service) communications from The Grove. These messages may include reminders, updates, and important notifications from staff.

- **Message Frequency:** The frequency of messages may vary depending on activities and communication needs.
- **Opting Out:** You may opt out of receiving text messages at any time by replying “STOP” to any message you receive from us. After opting out, you will no longer receive text messages from The Grove unless you opt in again.
- **Support and Assistance:** For help or additional information, you may reply “HELP” to any message or contact the office directly.
- **Message and Data Rates:** Message and data rates may apply, depending on your mobile carrier and plan. The Grove is not responsible for any charges incurred by your use of SMS services.
- **Privacy:** Your phone number and personal information will not be shared with third parties for marketing or promotional purposes. For more details, please refer to our Privacy Policy

6. Online Giving & Donations
If the Site includes online giving tools:

- Donations are processed securely through third-party providers.
- We do not store credit card information.

- Charitable contributions are generally non-refundable unless a processing error occurs.
- Contact the church office within 14 days if you believe an error has occurred.

7. Cookies & Tracking Technologies

The Site may use cookies or basic analytics tools to improve functionality and user experience.

- Cookies may remember preferences or collect general traffic analytics.
- You may disable cookies through your browser settings.
- We do not use cookies for advertising unless explicitly stated.

8. Third-Party Links

The Site may contain links to partner ministries, community resources, or social media platforms. We do not control or endorse third-party content. You assume all risks associated with visiting external websites.

9. Children's Privacy

Our Site is not directed to children under 13. Youth ministry communications follow The Grove's safety policy. We do not knowingly collect personal information from minors without parental approval.

10. Limitation of Liability

The Church is not liable for any damages resulting from your use of the Site; interruptions, errors, or security breaches caused by third-party providers; user-submitted content posted on public areas of the Site. Your use of the Site is at your own risk.

11. Changes to These Terms

We may update these Terms periodically. Changes take effect immediately upon posting. Continued use of the Site indicates acceptance of updated Terms.

12. Contact Information

If you have questions about these Terms, please contact: **mediaspecialist@thegrovemn.church.**