



# THE TABERNACLE

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. MAKE DISCIPLES.

## Service and Support Animals General Guidelines and Policy *Sept 2022*

The Tabernacle is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for people who participate in weekly services/ministry activities, including those who use assistance animals. Please review our guidelines regarding both service and emotional support animals. This policy is intended to comply generally with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### **Service Animals**

The ADA defines a service animal as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the service animal must be directly related to the person's disability. We welcome people with service animals on Tabernacle properties. Staff or ministry leaders may ask individuals with service animals a few questions, including:

- Is the animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

### **Emotional Support Animals**

An emotional support animal (also known as a comfort animal) provides reassurance just by being with a person. Dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, and many other species can serve as emotional support animals. However, they do not qualify as "service animals" under the ADA. Therefore, our organization has chosen NOT to allow emotional support animals on its premises. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to you or your family.

### **Our Organization's Rights**

Our organization does not have to provide care, food, or a special location for the service animal to relieve itself. We reserve the right to remove an assistance animal from the premises if it:

- Is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it.
- Poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- Is not housebroken.

If an assistance animal must be removed from the premises, the owner may re-enter the premises and attend church or ministry activities without the service animal.