



# Weather Warnings and the cancellation of church meetings due to inclement weather

## PURPOSE

To clearly state:

- 1) Which weather warnings result in automatic cancellation of all church activities while that warning is in effect
- 2) That all members are encouraged to always use their own discretion as to whether they, personally, should participate in church meetings whenever ANY weather warning/watch or advisory is in effect during the time that a church meeting is scheduled .

## SCOPE

- a. This policy covers all church sponsored meetings. “Church sponsored meetings” are all worship services, and all meetings listed in the church bulletin.
- b. The “weather warnings” that we will use for cancellation decisions are the warnings issued by the National Weather Service

## Policy description and statement

- a. The weather warnings that result in automatic cancellation of all church sponsored meetings are :
  - Tornado Warning
  - Winter Storm Warning
  - Blizzard Warning
- b. All church sponsored meetings will be cancelled if a Tornado, Winter Storm, or Blizzard Warning has been issued for the time of the scheduled meeting, or within 1 hour of the start or finish time of the meeting.
- c. While most weather warnings are announced by the National Weather Service with adequate time to avoid our being already at church when the warning is issued, tornado warnings can be an exception to that rule. In the event of a Tornado Warning being issued while we are already at church, you will be directed by the leader of the meeting (or, if we are gathered for worship, a member of the Emergency Response team) as to where to take shelter within the building until the warning is over.
- d. Areas of the church that are the best shelter options:
  - For members that are able to navigate stairs, the basement area to the west of the social room is the best option. The basement area should be accessed using the north stairwell. ( the stairwell closest to the kitchen)
  - For members that are not able to navigate stairs, the best options are :

- Women's restroom (East only...across from Pastor's Office)
- Men's restroom on first floor
- Janitor's closet (next to the kitchen)
- Storage room on the south side of the social hall ( next to Welcome Center)

### **Communication**

- a. When either a Tornado, Winter Weather, or Blizzard warning has been issued during the time of a worship service, the cancellation will be announced on the church website ( [www.racinecrc.org](http://www.racinecrc.org)) and sent via e-mail to all members on the church's group e-mail list.
- b. Members should **not** expect a phone call from their district Elder /Deacon...but, are welcome to call any Council Member to confirm the cancellation if they are, for any reason, uncertain about the status of the weather warning statement.
- c. If a Tornado, Winter Storm, or Blizzard warning has been issued during the time period of a scheduled church sponsored meeting during the week, you should assume that the meeting is cancelled. However, it is advisable to contact with the leader of the meeting to confirm the cancellation and receive information on when the meeting is likely to be re-scheduled.
- d. All members will receive a copy of this policy in their church mailbox every time the policy is updated.

### **Training ( If Required)**

- a. Leaders of church ministries/meetings will receive annual training for directing attendees at their meetings to the "best shelter" alternatives, if taking shelter during a Tornado Warning is required.

### **Approval /Governance**

- a. This policy was approved by the Racine CRC Council on October 23, 2017. It is scheduled to be reviewed again before December 2019.
- b. The church's Media Director will be responsible for church website updates and e-mail notifications referenced in this policy

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS POLICY**

- **All members should be aware of the three National Weather Service warnings that precipitate automatic cancellation of church sponsored meetings. (Tornado, Winter Storm and Blizzard)**
- **Members should be aware that cancellation of Worship services will not be accompanied by a call from their District Elder/Deacon. But, they are welcome to call for confirmation, if desired.**
- **All members should use their own discretion (and, maybe in some cases, the discretion of loved ones 😊 ) to determine if they should attend meetings or worship services during any weather warning/watch/advisory statement...or, any situation that may heighten risks as they move from their home to church.**