

SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Grace Commons Church

All van drivers are required to complete this form prior to the initial operation of the van.

A copy of the signed form will be kept on file in the Business Office.

Risks Associated with Operating Full Size Vans (12 or 15 Passenger)

1. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) safety advisory states that drivers insist all occupants wear safety belts and all times. Children under 8 years of age must be properly secured in an appropriate car seat/booster seat. Drivers should verbally remind van passengers that safety belts are to be properly used until the vehicle is stopped and legally parked.
2. Drivers should visually check passenger safety belt use. If, during transit, the driver is made aware of passengers who are not using their safety belts, the driver should stop and legally park the van until all passengers are buckled up.
3. Full size vans require special handling knowledge for safe operation of the vehicle.
 - ☞ The weight of the van, particularly when fully occupied and/or fully loaded, causes the center of gravity to shift rearward and upward increasing the likelihood of rollover. Go slowly around curves and avoid sudden, abrupt maneuvers.
 - ☞ The weight of the van requires additional stopping distance. This is an especially important factor in rain, for, or other difficult driving situations caused by weather conditions.
 - ☞ The width of the van allows for less lane room.
 - ☞ The length of the van increases the distance needed for making turns, changing lanes, and braking.
 - ☞ Be aware of the blind spots (1) on either side of the van (2) immediately behind the van below window height.

Driving Practices for Safe Van Operation

1. Drive at posted speeds or lower.
2. When backing up: turn off the radio, open the front windows, and make sure to have someone check directly behind the van for obstacles, children, etc.
3. Decrease your speed for special conditions such as rain, snow, fog, wind and any other condition impacting visibility, stopping distance, or general safe handling of the vehicle.
4. Minimize potential driver distraction. Do not eat, drink, or use a cell phone while driving the van. Stop the van in a safe place before eating, drinking, or using a cell phone.
5. Load passengers and equipment properly.
 - ☞ Do not use additional cargo or luggage carriers or racks, of any type, that are attached to the top or the rear of the van. No additional weight of any amount may be placed on top of the van.
 - ☞ Do not attach a trailer to the van.
 - ☞ No passengers are allowed in the seat behind the rear axle (in the 15 passenger van.)
 - ☞ The rear bench seat may not be used for passengers and may not have heavy cargo or luggage placed in it (in the 15 passenger van.)
 - ☞ Cargo and luggage must be placed on the floor and may not be piled higher than the lower sills of the windows.
5. Make sure that the driver and all passengers properly use their safety belts and that children under 8 years of age are properly secured in an appropriate car seat.
6. Minimize driver fatigue on long trips by driving rested, taking appropriate breaks, or sharing the driving with other authorized drivers.

Acknowledgement

I have read and understand (1) the potential risks associated with operating a full size vans and (2) the driving practices for safe van operation.

Driver's Name (Printed):

Driver's Signature:

Date: