

University Presbyterian Preschool

Parent Handbook

I. History, Mission, and Oversight of UPPS

University Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten (UPPK) was established in 1972 to provide a half day kindergarten experience for five year old children at a time when public kindergarten did not exist in North Carolina. The church acted as a sponsor, with the program supporting teacher salaries with tuition fees. Enrollment was open to the entire community with UPC members receiving priority and a Session appointed committee was responsible for the business of the program. Eventually UPPK offered classes for three age groups.

My Morning Out (MMO) was started in September, 1977 as a baby sitting cooperative for children ages nine months to five years old under the auspices of the Presbyterian Missions Committee which provided the church nursery room rent free. In order to meet the growing needs of the community, MMO gradually expanded into a five morning program serving two separate age groups in two rooms. In March 1996 the name was changed again, to MMO Early Childhood Cooperative. This change in name was made to show that MMO had evolved from its original mission as a baby-sitting cooperative to become a cooperative preschool.

In March of 2003 the Session of University Presbyterian Church appointed a task force to review the two preschool programs. The Session, which is the elected ruling body of the church, asked the task force to review My Morning Out (MMO) and University Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten (UPPK) with “particular emphasis of the review to include the relationship of the programs to the mission of UPC, the financial and administrative relationship with UPC and the childcare needs of the community.”

After six months of intensive study, the Task Force concluded that it is the responsibility and mission of University Presbyterian Church to continue to support families in their efforts to provide their children with early childhood experiences that take place in an atmosphere conducive to meeting children’s needs for wholesome mental, emotional and spiritual development. The Task Force also concluded that while University Presbyterian Church should no longer sponsor a private kindergarten, a half day preschool remains relevant to many of University Presbyterian Church’s own members and provides an expression of pastoral care and nurture. Along with this service to church members, a half day preschool continues to be greatly needed in this community, especially when it is one that is church based and is an inclusive ministry without regard for religious belief, gender, class, race or national origin.

In September of 2003 the Session approved unanimously the recommendation of the Task Force to replace the two existing programs with one preschool program serving children ages 2 - 4, with one director, and rename the program University Presbyterian Preschool (UPPS). The Session approved this recommendation effective for the 2004-2005 school year. UPPS is under the direction of the Session, through the Session’s UPPS Committee, with the director and teachers as employees of University Presbyterian Church.