

January 20, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On January 1, 2016, the “*Open Carry Law*” went into effect in the state of Texas. This law allows a person who possesses a LTC (License to Carry) to carry their handgun in such a way as to be seen by others as long as it is in a shoulder or belt holster.

While the Sunset church of Christ recognizes the rights of all citizens to practice “open carry” in accordance with the law, **we respectfully ask that both members and non-members alike temporarily suspend those rights while on the Sunset campus** in order to honor and promote a spirit of peace and unity.

Even though the carrying of a firearm (openly or concealed) does not mean that person is not a person of peace and unity, the visibility of firearms does however measurably impact our corporate environment of:

- Peace - in terms of the comfortableness of those with whom the presence of a firearm creates angst or fear.
- Unity - in terms of the harmony that can be disturbed due to conflict among congregants with opposing personal opinions regarding the carrying of firearms either in or outside Christian assemblies.

Therefore, because the spirit of peace and unity is of the utmost importance within the community of believers universally and at Sunset, we believe this suspension of our legal rights to “open carry” exalts the attitude of Christ that calls us to have the highest respect for the interests of others in all humility and love.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)
May the Lord bless us as we seek to honor Him above all else,

The Sunset Elders