

APPENDIX E PARTICIPATION COVENANT STATEMENT

Community United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. We consider our children and youth to be our most precious gifts. Our congregation is committed to preserving this church as a holy place of safety and protection for all who would enter, and as a place in which all people can experience the love of God through relationships with others. The following statements reflect this commitment and apply to all volunteers who seek to work with the children or youth of our congregation:

1. Any adult who has been convicted of child abuse (whether sexual, physical, or emotional abuse) may not work in any capacity with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity or ministry.
2. Any adult survivor of child abuse who desires to volunteer in some capacity to work with children or youth is asked to confidentially discuss his/her experience with one of our church's ministers before accepting an assignment. Adult survivors of child abuse need the love and support of our congregation.
3. Adult volunteers shall observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children or youth. At least two adults must be present at any church-sponsored event or ministry involving children or youth. No exceptions. This is for the safety of the volunteers as well as the children and youth.
4. Adult volunteers assuming a primary role of leadership and responsibility in children's or youth activities shall have been active participants of the congregation for at least six months immediately prior to beginning a volunteer assignment. For example, team leaders on youth mission trips, chaperones for youth activities both on-site and off-site, youth counselors, etc.
5. Adult volunteers shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the church to keep volunteers informed of church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.
6. Adult volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.
7. Volunteers under the age of 18 shall not be in a primary role of responsibility for the supervision of CUMC's children or youth.

Please answer each of the following questions:

1. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe and abide by all church policies regarding working in ministries with children and youth? Yes No
2. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to inform a minister of this congregation if you have ever been convicted of child abuse? Yes No
3. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times? Yes No
4. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to abide by the six-month rule before beginning a volunteer assignment? Yes No
5. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to participate in training and education events provided by the church related to your volunteer assignment? Yes No
6. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to your supervisor? Yes No
7. As a volunteer in this congregation, would you be willing to discuss with a minister of this congregation your experience, if any, and any help you may have received as a survivor of child abuse? Yes No N/A

I have read this Participation Covenant, and I agree to observe and abide by the policies set forth above.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print full name