



Enterprise First United Methodist Church

Safe Sanctuaries

Participation Covenant

This congregation is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, at-risk adults, and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. The following policy statements reflect our congregation's commitment 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.

- Adults who have been convicted of child abuse of any kind are not allowed to volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
- Adult survivors of child abuse need the love and support of our congregation. Any adult survivor who desires to volunteer in some capacity to work with children or youth is encouraged to discuss his or her willingness with one of the church's ministers before accepting an assignment.
- All adult volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must have been members of the congregation for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment.
- Adult volunteers with children and youth shall observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children or youth.
- Adult volunteers with children and youth shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the church to keep volunteers informed of church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.
- Adult volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

Please mark each of the statements to which you will commit:

- _____ 1. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to observe and abide by all church policies regarding working in ministries with children and youth.
- _____ 2. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times.
- _____ 3. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to abide by the six-month rule before beginning a volunteer assignment.
- _____ 4. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to participate in training and education events provided by the church related to my volunteer assignment.
- _____ 5. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to my supervisor.
- _____ 6. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to discuss with a minister of this congregation my experience, if any, as a survivor of child abuse.
- _____ 7. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to inform a minister of this congregation if I have ever been convicted of child abuse.

After reading this participation covenant, I agree to abide by the policies set forth above.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____