

Safe Sanctuaries Participation Covenant Statement

The congregation of Bethesda United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, workers, and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. The following policy statement reflects 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.

1. No adult who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, or ritual abuse) should volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
2. All adult volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must have been active in the congregation for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment.
3. Adult volunteers with children and youth shall observe the "Two Adult Rule" at all times so that no adult is left alone with children or youth.
4. 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.
5. Adult volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

Please answer 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 observe the "Two Adult Rule" at all times? Yes No
3. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to abide by the "Six Month Rule" before beginning a volunteer assignment? Yes No
4. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to participate in training and educational events provided by the church related to your volunteer assignment? Yes No
5. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to your supervisor(s)? Yes No
6. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to inform a minister of this church if you have ever been convicted of child abuse? Yes No

I have read this SAFE SANCTUARIES PARTICIPATION COVENANT STATEMENT and I agree to observe and abide by the policies set forth above.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print full name