

Safe Sanctuaries **Participant Covenant**

Woodlawn United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe & secure environment for all children, youth, at-risk adults, & volunteers who participate in ministries & activities sponsored by the church. The following policy statements reflect our congregation's commitment to preserving this church as a holy place of safety & protection for all who would enter & 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 & support of our congregation. Any adult survivor who desires to volunteer in some capacity to work with children, youth, or at-risk adults 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 & youth shall observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children, youth or at-risk adults.
- Adult volunteers with children, youth, or at-risk adults shall attend regular training & educational events provided by the church to keep volunteers informed of church policies & state laws regarding 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:

- As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to observe & abide by all church policies regarding working in ministries with children, youth, & at-risk adults.
- As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times.
- As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to abide by the six-month rule before beginning a volunteer assignment.
- As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to participate in training & education events provided by the church related to my volunteer assignment.
- As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to my supervisor.
- 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.
- 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 _____ Date _____