

## PARTICIPATION COVENANT STATEMENT

The congregation of First United Methodist Church, Marion, Illinois, 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. 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.

1. No adult who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or emotional abuse) should volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
2. 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/her willingness with one of our church's pastors before accepting an assignment.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Adult volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

**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 the 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 education 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?  Yes  No
6. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to inform a pastor of this congregation if you have ever been convicted of child abuse?  Yes  No

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

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Signature of Applicant

Date

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Print Full Name