

# PARTICIPATION COVENANT FOR ALL WORKERS WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Congregation of Wilmington Island 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. 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, physical, or emotional) 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 ministers before accepting an assignment.
3. All adult volunteers involved with the youth or children 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 & youth shall observe the two-adult rule at all times so that no adult is ever alone with one child or youth. When only one adult is present, volunteers shall observe the roving adult rule.
5. Adult volunteers with children & 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 & youth? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
2. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe the two-adult and/or roving 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 discuss with a minister of this congregation your experience, if any, as a survivor of child abuse? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Have never experienced child abuse \_\_\_  
(Answering yes to this question does not automatically disqualify you from volunteering with children and youth.)
7. 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 \_\_\_ Have never been charged or convicted of child abuse \_\_\_

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

**A complete copy of Safe Sanctuary Policy is available in the Church Office upon request.**