

## Participation Covenant

The congregation of Asbury United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children and 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.

- No adult who has been convicted of abuse of a child, teenager or adult (either sexual, physical, or emotional) should 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/her willingness with one of our church's ministers before accepting an assignment.
- All adult volunteers involved with the children or youth of our church must be members of the congregation for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment. Those that are actively involved in the life of the church for at least 6 months and are not members need to be approved by church leaders 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 one or more 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 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 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 supervisors? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
6. Have you ever been convicted of abuse of a child, teenager or adult? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_