

A SAMPLE COVENANT

The _____ United Methodist Church affirms the dignity and worth of all persons. We are committed to being a religious community open to those who wish to worship with us, especially in times of serious personal troubles. The following guidelines are designed to reduce the risk to both you and them of an incident or accusation. We welcome you to our congregation and our membership, but your participation will be limited to ensure the safety of our minors, and to assure that you will not be subject to future accusations.

Within these guidelines, the congregation welcomes your participation in the life of the church under certain conditions. You are to avoid all contact with minors on the congregation property or at congregation-sponsored events. You will not be allowed to volunteer or chaperone events for minors, including religious education classes for minors, children's time, youth group, activities involving minors during intergenerational events, and driving minors.

The following activities checked "Yes" are activities that we feel are appropriate for your participation with the understanding that a Shepherd must always accompany you.

Participation in Adult Sunday School (Shepherd must be in the room): No ___ Yes ___

Participation in Worship Service: No ___ Yes ___

Participation in Fellowship Time or Coffee Hour: No ___ Yes ___

Participation in Adult meeting without minors in the building: No ___ Yes ___

Participation in any meetings with minors in the building, i.e. choir: No ___ Yes ___

Participation in intergenerational church activities on church property: No ___ Yes ___

Participation in intergenerational church activities off of church property: No ___ Yes ___

Meet in the building with minister: No ___ Yes ___

Meet in the building with other church staff: No ___ Yes ___

Other: No ___ Yes ___

You will remain within sight of the Shepherd. Before leaving the main gathering room, you will notify the Shepherd of your intention and destination. When leaving the church after the allowed activities, you will be escorted out of the church and will go directly to the bus stop or to another form of transportation that leaves immediately. You will go out the ___ exit of the Narthex and walk away from the church. Do not loiter in the parking lot awaiting a ride home. Use the _____ restroom at the after having it checked by the Shepherd to make sure the outside door is locked.

Covenant Agreement:

I accept that the Shepherds will be told of my circumstances in order for them to protect any minors on or around the _____ United Methodist Church property and me. Once I agree to this, _____ United Methodist Church will provide me with a list of my church Shepherds.

I will never allow myself to be in a situation where I am alone or in conversation with minors.

I will sit where directed in the church and will not place myself in the vicinity of minors.

I understand I must carry a signed copy of this Limited Access Agreement and a signed copy of my risk protection plan while attending any church or church-sponsored activity in which I am participating.

I have reviewed this Limited Access Agreement, understand it, and agree to abide by its provisions. Furthermore, I understand that if I violate this agreement, I will be denied access to future church functions and to the church property.

I understand that representatives of the _____ United Methodist Church and I will review this Limited Access Agreement at least every six months and that it will remain in effect for an indefinite period. The _____ United Methodist Church reserves the right to amend this Limited Access Agreement at any time.

_____	_____
(Signature)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Witness)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Minister)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Staff Parish Relations Chair)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Church Council Chair)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Trustee Chair)	(Date)
_____	_____
(any other church leaders who need to be involved)	
_____	_____
(Parole Officer, if applicable)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Group Therapist, if applicable)	(Date)