

Gethsemane United Methodist Church
910 Addison Road South
Capitol Heights, MD 20743
301-336-1219

Participation Covenant Statement

The congregation of Gethsemane United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, vulnerable adults and adults who care for and work with them in the ministries and activities sponsored by the church. The following statements reflect our congregation's commitment to preserving our church as a holy place where 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), will be permitted to volunteer to work with children/youth/vulnerable adults 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/youth/vulnerable adults is encouraged to discuss his/her willingness with one of our church's ministers before accepting the assignment.
3. All adult volunteers and workers involved with children/youth/vulnerable adults of our church must have been members (or regularly attending) for at least three to six months.
4. The "Two-Adult Rule" means no fewer than two adults (unrelated by blood or marriage) will be present at all times during any church sponsored program or event.
5. Adult volunteers and workers involved with children/youth/vulnerable adults shall observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children/ youth/vulnerable adults.
6. All adult volunteers and workers shall be over the age of 18 and observe the "Five- Years-Older" Rule.
7. The "Five-Years-Older" Rule means that youth volunteers and workers will be at least five years older than the children/youth served in the ministries.
8. Adult volunteers and workers with children/youth/vulnerable adults shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the church to keep volunteers informed of church guidelines and state laws regarding abuse.
9. Adult volunteers and workers shall immediately report to their supervisor any

Staff & Volunteer Packet

behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

Please answer each of the following questions:

1. As a volunteer in this church, do you agree to observe and abide by all church guidelines regarding working in ministries with children/youth/ vulnerable adults?

Yes____ No ____

2. As a volunteer in this church, do you agree to observe the "Two-Adult Rule" to the best of your ability? Yes____No ____

3. As a volunteer in this church, do you agree to abide by the "Six-Month Rule" before beginning a volunteer assignment? Yes _____No ____

4. As a volunteer in this church, 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 church, do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to your Team Leader? Yes ____No ____

6. As a volunteer in this church, do you agree to inform a minister of this church if you have ever been convicted of child abuse? Yes __No ____

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

Signature _____

Date _____