



Participation Covenant

The congregation of Forest Hills 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 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 ministers 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 the 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, staff member, and senior pastor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.
7. The Church Business Manager will keep on file the information sheets attached on each teacher. Having information on file helps to ensure that teachers have been carefully chosen to teach preschoolers, children, and youth.
8. Information regarding a list of teachers teaching in each room at each appointed time will be posted just outside each department room where preschoolers, children, and youth are taught.

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

Signature of Applicant

Date