

COVENANT AGREEMENT

The congregation of Fairfield Grace 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 or Methodist Nursery School. 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 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 to work with children or youth is encouraged to discuss his/her willingness with one of our church's ministers or Methodist Nursery School staff before accepting an assignment.
3. All adult volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must follow the "Two-Adult Rule", if they have been members of the congregation for less than six months.
4. Adult volunteers with children and youth shall observe the "Two-Adult Rule" outside of standard church hours, at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children or youth, unless a release is signed by the parent for the specific goal of counseling a youth in their role as a volunteer of the church.
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 any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate. If the supervisor is the suspected perpetrator, then the next highest supervisor should be informed. In all cases, the Department of Children and Family Services should be contacted by the volunteer as a first hand, anonymous reporter.

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

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print Full Name