

## First United Methodist Church Youth Covenant of Conduct

The following is a Covenant of Conduct designed and authored by the First United Methodist Church Youth students and leaders. The purpose of this Covenant is to assure the safety and well being of each individual student through clearly stated rules and standards. Our primary objective is to create an atmosphere of mutual respect, that we may grow in faith to experience the wonders of Jesus Christ both as individuals and as a body of believers.

**Participation**-All persons are expected to participate in all activities when present. Medical exceptions need to be made known by a parent or guardian. Other circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the supervising youth leader.

**Disruption**- A great deal of time, effort and money go into preparing Youth activities. All youth activities are ultimately designed to enhance the student's relationship with Jesus Christ. Disrupted behavior hinders that goal. It is disrespectful to the group and to our Lord.

**Put-Downs**-We are told to "build each other up" (1Th 5:11). When we criticize, judge, put-down, and gossip we are doing exactly the opposite. To intentionally hurt one person with our words is to hurt the whole group.

**Boundaries**-Do not leave the areas specifically indicated by the activity or by the person leading the activity. Student participants must notify the youth leaders in charge before leaving a youth function.

**Vandalism/Property Damage**-The Church building and grounds are to be treated with respect. Any person who willingly damages or destroys property will be responsible for cost of replacement or repairs.

**Stealing**-Stealing will not be tolerated. If it is not yours, and you take it, no matter how small it is – that is stealing. Don't do it.

**Tobacco/Alcohol/Illegal Substances**-Tobacco, alcohol, and any illegal substances including fireworks will not be tolerated.

**Rough Housing**-No roughhousing, wrestling, or physical contact unless required by the activity or permitted by the supervising youth leader.

**Language** -Use only healthy language; no profanity, cursing, vulgarity or obscene gestures.

**Public Displays of Affection**-Displays of romantic affection promote exclusion and discomfort among the group members. Therefore, it is not permitted. As a fellowship, or group of friends in Jesus Christ, we will, at times, be compelled to healthy displays of

Christian affection. However, these displays must at all times demonstrate the respect, wholesomeness, good judgment and spirit that Christ taught us. If at any time a youth leader feels a display of affection inappropriate or lacking respect, they will disallow all public displays of affection.

**Radios, Tape players, video games, Etc.-** These are not allowed unless otherwise notified by the youth leaders. First United Methodist Church is not responsible for items that are lost or damaged.

**Worship Services-** Time spent worshiping God is sacred time. As believers, we are expected to enter a place of worship reverently and respectfully; thereby honoring our Sovereign Lord as well as our fellow worshipers.

**Traveling-** We are ambassadors of Jesus Christ wherever we go and at all times. However, this is particularly true when we travel off church property. Our behavior, language, actions and intentions may be the only witness to Jesus Christ that some ever see. Be mindful that we are representing to the world, not only our church, but our Lord as well. If at anytime during travel, the code of this covenant is broken and the officiating youth leader deems necessary, the offending youth(s)' parents will be contacted and expected to retrieve the student from the activity.

## **Consequences of Breaking this Covenant**

When an inappropriate behavior is being displayed:

- 1) A warning will be issued identifying the behavior as not appropriate and to be terminated immediately.
- 2) If the behavior persists after a warning has been issued, a meeting will be held with the offending student and his or her parents to discuss the behavior and its impact and consequences.
- 3) If the behavior persists after a meeting with the student and their parents the student will be asked not to attend the particular activity or meeting in which the behavior had been displayed for a suitable period of time.

## **Special Conditions**

Any behavior resulting in a gross breach of trust or safety for the individual(s) or group can result in immediate suspension from the group and/or activity contingent on the officiating youth leaders' discretion.

Items improperly used or deemed inappropriate by the officiating youth leader, may be confiscated until an event or meeting is concluded.

Misuse of the church van, or failure to properly clean up after use can result in revoked use and privileges of the van.

## **YOUTH**

As a responsible young adult, I recognize my signature on this document as a binding commitment to uphold and adhere to its' stated rules and regulations. Failure to do so will result in the consequences listed above. I understand that this document was conceived for the safety and well being of The First United Methodist Youth Group and its' individuals.

Youth Printed Name

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\_Youth Signature

Date

**PARENTS**

As a parent of a First United Methodist Youth I accept the terms of this document and will support its rules and consequences. I understand that if I should be called by an officiating youth leader during any activity, and requested to retrieve my child from that activity, I am responsible to do so immediately.

Parent Printed Name

Parent Signature

Date