

Athens United Methodist Church, Athens, PA

Safe Sanctuaries Participation Covenant

The congregation of the Athens United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, vulnerable adults 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 or named as a perpetrator in a Registry Report of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or emotional abuse) will be permitted to volunteer to work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults in any church-sponsored activity.
2. Adult volunteers involved regularly with children, youth, or vulnerable adults of our church must be active participants or members of the congregation (Conference) at least six months before beginning an ongoing, regular assignment. Other adults may volunteer on an occasional basis.
3. Adult volunteers with children and youth shall observe the "Minimum of Two Unrelated Adults Rule" at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children, youth, or vulnerable adults.
4. Adult volunteers with children, youth, and vulnerable adults shall attend an training and education events provided by the church or Annual Conference to keep workers informed of abuse prevention policies and procedures and state laws regarding abuse and reporting.
5. Adult volunteers shall immediately report any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate to the Pastor or a member of the church's *Safe Sanctuaries* Task Force on the Prevention of Abuse.

Please answer each of the following questions:

1. As a volunteer or employee in this church, do you agree to observe and abide by all church (District, Conference ministry or program) policies for working in ministry with children, youth, and vulnerable adults? Yes No
2. Do you agree to observe the "Minimum of Two-Adult Rule" as well as other safety procedures at all times? Yes No
3. Do you agree to abide by the six month rule before beginning an assignment? Yes No
4. Do you agree to participate in training and education events provided by the church related to working with children and youth? Yes No
5. Do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to a member of the church's Task Force on Prevention of Child Abuse? Yes No

I have read Athens United Methodist Church's *Safe Sanctuaries* Abuse Prevention Policy and this Participation Covenant. I agree to observe and abide by the policies and procedures set forth in it.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name (PRINT) _____