

**SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Safe Sanctuaries Policy**  
**Participation Covenant Statement**

The congregation of Salem United Methodist Church (Salem) 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. Volunteers are an essential and valuable component of the ministries of Salem. The following policy statement reflects 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 (sexual, physical or emotional) 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 attended Salem regularly (at least once each month) for six months.
4. Adult volunteers and staff with children and youth shall observe the "Two Adult" and the "No one-on-one Contact" rules.
5. Adult volunteers with children and youth shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the church to keep informed of church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.
6. Adult volunteers with children and youth shall immediately report suspected child abuse to the proper authorities, including the appropriate staff person if the incident occurred during church-related activities.

Please answer each of the following questions (by initial):

1. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe and abide by all church policies and procedures regarding working in ministries with children and youth?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe the "Two Adult" and the "No One-On-One Contact" Rules?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to abide by the "Six Month" Rule before beginning a volunteer assignment?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. As a volunteer in this congregation, 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 congregation, do you agree to promptly report child abuse to the proper authorities, including the appropriate staff person if the incident occurred during church-related activities?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you ever been convicted of child abuse?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
7. I agree to promptly notify the Safe Sanctuaries Committee Chairperson of any child abuse allegations that may be made against me while I am a volunteer in this congregation.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_