

Name of Participant \_\_\_\_\_

# First Presbyterian Youth

## Covenant for Youth and Adults

### 2017 - 2018

#### **The Purpose of This Covenant**

As a community of God, First Presbyterian Youth strives to create a safe, loving community where participants actively learn about who they are as they learn about whose they are. In order to maintain this environment the following covenant has been established. This covenant will be in effect for every sixth through twelfth grade youth and all adult leaders involved in First Presbyterian Youth. This covenant is in effect anytime we are on the campus of First Presbyterian Church, at an event or trip sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and whenever the youth and adult leaders are together for any reason. Knowing that individual sacrifices occur in a true community, this statement of covenant has been prayerfully composed with the safety of all participants in mind.

#### **The Living Document**

The responsibility to approve this covenant ultimately falls into the hands of the Youth Ministry. Participants and parents of participants throughout FPC are encouraged to work with the Youth Ministry in modifying this covenant as necessary or every two years. The success of this document relies on the cooperation of everyone involved.

#### **The Foundation**

The foundation of this community consists of love, respect and responsibility. It is impractical and in some ways insulting to outline a comprehensive list of appropriate and inappropriate behaviors for the program. Participants should always act in the best interest of the group and with love, respect and responsibility in mind. Participants will always be held responsible for their actions. Participants unclear about the appropriateness of a behavior should seek the advice of the Director of Family Ministries or adult leader.

#### **Serious Concerns**

First Presbyterian Youth participants are not to use or possess any illegal drugs, illegal substances, alcohol, and tobacco products of any kind or weapons and are not to participate in any extra-marital sexual activity. Furthermore, participants must adhere to local, state and federal laws. The above has no place at FPC Youth and break down the group instead of building it.

#### **Expectations**

The following list of expectations has been developed to effectively communicate some specific behavioral concerns that commonly exist in group situations:

- ◆ Full participation is asked of every participant during every meeting, event, program, activity, practice, trip and rehearsal.
- ◆ Each participant should respect him- or herself, other people, and personal, public and church property at all times.

- ◆ Responsibility should be shown in regard to any display of affection.
- ◆ Each participant should be responsible for her or his choice of language. The language should be positive, supportive and representative of our church family.
- ◆ Seatbelts must be worn when traveling.

**Management of This Covenant**

It is the responsibility of all participants (youth and adults) to hold all other participants accountable for their behavior. The adults should not be expected to act as the only responsible members of the program, but should be respected as figures of authority. It is the responsibility of the Director of Family Ministries to ultimately uphold these expectations and to make judgment calls when necessary. When the judgments or decisions of the Director of Family Ministries come into question, the CE Board will serve as advisor for the situation.

**Consequences**

For serious concerns (drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, sexual activity or any illegal behavior including misdemeanors and felonies), the youth will be required to notify their parents about their behavior in the presence of an adult leader. Once notified, the parent(s) of the youth and adult leader(s) will work together to establish the next appropriate step with the youth’s best interest in mind.

Less serious concerns will result in a conference with the Director of Family Ministries or an adult leader to decide upon an appropriate consequence.

The Director of Family Ministries reserves the right to send any participant home at his or her own expense for inappropriate behavior. If the DFM is not present when sending home a participant, adult leaders must clear the decision through the DFM or the Pastor at First Presbyterian Church.

**Conclusion**

This covenant has been developed for the general well being of the individuals and the smooth functioning of FPC Youth. It was designed to be a positive guideline for living. Anyone should feel free to speak to our DFM regarding any of these expectations.

**We, the undersigned, have read and discussed this covenant and agree to abide by it.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Family Ministries

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date