

Safe Sanctuary Volunteer Covenant Statement

The congregation of First United Methodist Church of Yankton 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. The Safe Sanctuary Policy of the church and the following statements reflect our congregation's commitment to preserving this church as a holy place of safety and protection for all who enter; as a place where all people can experience the love of God through relationships with others.

1. No adult who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional Abuse, or ritual abuse) should volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity. A person who has been so convicted by law, will be welcomed into the redemptive fellowship of the congregation, and may serve in other areas, but should not volunteer to be with children or youth.
2. Adult survivors of child abuse are offered 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 the church Pastor before accepting an assignment.
3. All adult volunteer leaders supervising children or youth of our church need to be members of the congregation for at least six months (the "Six Month Rule").
4. Adult volunteers with children and youth shall observe the "Two-Person Rule" set forth in the Safe Sanctuary Policy at all times unless a situation arises in which the need of a child or youth requires immediate assistance and the availability of two individuals is not feasible.
5. Adult volunteers supervising children and youth shall participate in 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.

Please answer the following questions:

1. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe and abide by all church policies set forth in the Safe Sanctuary Policy regarding working in ministries with children and youth?

Yes No

2. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to abide by the "Six Month Rule" before beginning a volunteer leadership role supervising children and youth?

Yes No

3. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe the "Two-Person Rule" at all times?

Yes No

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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 abusive or inappropriate behavior to the church minister, a member of the Safe Sanctuary Committee, or law enforcement?

Yes No

6. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to inform a minister of this church or member of the Safe Sanctuary Committee if you are charged or convicted of any form of abuse involving a child, or if you become aware of another church volunteer so charged or convicted?

Yes No

I have read this **Safe Sanctuary Volunteer Covenant Statement** and the **Safe Sanctuary Policy**, and I agree to observe and abide by the policies set forth in both documents.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print Name