



PARTICIPATION COVENANT STATEMENT

The congregation of The Gathering United Methodist Church 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 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 ever been convicted of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or emotional abuse) will be allowed to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
- 2.Background check will be performed on everyone working with children and youth.
- 3.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 staff members before accepting an assignment.
- 4.All adult volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must have been attending the church services regularly for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment.
- 5.Adult volunteers with children and youth shall observe the “TWO ADULT RULE” at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children or youth. Married couples are not allowed to be the only two persons caring for children or youth alone; however, you may have one other person over the age of 16 with married couples or a floater.
- 6.Adult volunteers with children or youth shall attend regular training and education events provided by the church to keep volunteers informed of church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.
- 7.Adult volunteers shall immediately report to Etta Mims any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate. Child abuse forms are located in the desk in the Kidz Zone Building.
- 8.Children and youth are never to be left alone in a room or left alone to wait for someone to pick them up from an event. Every adult volunteer should avoid being alone in the restroom with one child. Take children to the restroom in groups and if there is only one adult encourage younger children who need help with clothing to come to where you are so you can be seen by other employees.

PLEASE ANSWER EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- 1.As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe and abide by all the church policies regarding working in ministries with children and youth?_____yes____no
- 2.Do you agree to observe the “TWO ADULT RULE” at all times?_____yes____no
- 3.Do you agree to abide by the six month rule before beginning a volunteer assignment?_____yes____no
- 4.Do you agree to participate in training and education events provided by the church related to your volunteer assignment?_____yes____no
- 5.Do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to your supervisor?_____yes____no
- 6.Do you agree to discuss with a staff member of this congregation your experience, if any of child abuse?_____yes____no

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

Printed Name:_____Date:_____

Signature:_____