**Safe Sanctuaries Youth Participation Covenant Statement**

The congregation of Bethesda United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, workers, and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. The following 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 one who has been convicted of hurting children should volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
2. All volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must have been active in the congregation for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment, unless approved by the pastors and Director of Christian Education to work with Vacation Bible School.
3. All volunteers with children and youth shall observe the “Two Adult Rule” at all times so that no adult is left alone with children or youth, and no children and youth are left unsupervised.
4. All volunteers with children and youth shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the church to keep volunteers informed of church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.
5. 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 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 Rule” at all times? 🞏 Yes 🞏 No
3. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to participate in training and educational events provided by the church related to your volunteer assignment? 🞏 Yes 🞏 No
4. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to promptly report any inappropriate behavior to your supervisor(s)? 🞏 Yes 🞏 No
5. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to inform a minister of this church if you have ever been convicted of hurting a child? 🞏 Yes 🞏 No
6. As a volunteer of this congregation, do you agree to follow the instructions of the adult supervisors, staff and pastors? 🞏 Yes 🞏 No

I have read this SAFE SANCTUARIES YOUTH PARTICIPATION COVENANT STATEMENT and I agree to observe and abide by the policies set forth above.

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Signature of Applicant Date Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

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Print full name Print full name

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Relationship to Volunteer