

Youth Ministry Leadership Covenant

As a leader in youth ministry, you are called to exhibit the highest of Christian values and serve in ways that honor Christ. Students in your care and charge are seeking and searching. They are hungry to discover even more fully what it means to be a Christ-follower. Your examples of servant leadership, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, self-control, patience, and love will serve as signposts throughout their journey.

This covenant is created to encourage your God-giftedness, your unique talents, and your leadership, while also helping you to establish and maintain appropriate and healthy relationships with the youth of our community.

Teamwork always takes precedence over individualism. The goal is community for everyone involved.

You can nurture disciples only as much as you offer yourself as a disciple. Gifted leaders have a passion for God and a desire to share God's love.

Youth will seek you out for advice, personal sharing, and direction. It is important that you respect the confidentiality with which something is shared unless you are required by law to share information you have been given.

It is the expectation that as a leader, our life will reflect a high level of personal and moral integrity.

While it is not prohibited for youth leaders to date one another, it does create an interesting dynamic, especially when a breakup occurs. If you date another youth leader, you are asked to use discretion and Christ-like judgment. It is absolutely prohibited for a youth leader to date or engage in any sexualized behavior with a youth. Sexual misconduct of any type will not be tolerated.

All of us face situations of fear, frustration, and loss in our lives. You are asked to refrain from sharing with youth information pertaining to your personal life issues. You are also asked to use careful and judicious judgment in sharing any past experiences of poor judgment or behavior as a teaching tool.

While it is most appropriate to be friendly to youth at youth group, in the community, and in the church, it is not appropriate to begin a friendship with youth that will spill over into fraternization outside of sponsored youth activities. Again, it is expressly prohibited for youth leaders to date youth. Maintaining appropriate boundaries with youth is an acknowledgment of the power differential that is implicit in your role as a leader. These boundaries will help you gain their respect and will enhance your ability and effectiveness in disciplining or counseling them.

As a child of God, a member of the church universal, and as a volunteer of Calvary United Methodist Church,

I covenant and agree to (*initial in the space provided after you have read and agree to each bulleted item*):

- not abuse alcohol or drugs in any inappropriate or illegal manner, engage in sexual immorality, or participate in the sharing of music that contains language or messages that others may find offensive.
- _____
work as a team and submit myself and my will to the assigned leader of any particular mission, event, or activity. _____
- attend to my own spiritual growth through prayer, Bible study, worship, and participation in the community of faith. _____

- display exemplary moral character and integrity through my participation in online social media, the appropriate use of my cell phone and other mobile devices, and my engagement with others utilizing these devices. I will abstain from and encourage youth to abstain from sexting, cyberbullying, online harassment, and any type of Internet intimidation. _____
- engage with youth and fellow leaders in ways that allow us to build one another up, rather than demoralize, criticize, or demean. This includes the games we play and the jokes we share. _____
- be mindful and respectful of the safe spaces I create for youth:

* I will avoid being alone with any youth behind closed doors, in a vehicle, or in any place where other adults are not present. _____

* I will seek to encourage relationships and conversations in places of community that foster confidentiality, safety, and respect. _____

- respect and hold sacred the confidential information youth might share with me. However, I also covenant to operate within the boundaries of the law and will break confidences if legally required to do so. _____
- I will establish healthy boundaries in my interactions with youth and other youth leaders. This includes dating and sharing personal experiences and friendships beyond the youth group or counseling relationship. _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____