



Youth Covenant First Presbyterian Church

While participating in youth ministry at First Presbyterian Church (FPC), I represent my own family, my church family, and Jesus Christ. As a youth group, we will conduct ourselves individually and as a group in ways that are consistent with who we are, what we profess to believe, and who and what we represent.

I will:

- **Follow all instructions** given to me by adult leaders.
- Abide by the guidelines leaders set regarding the use of **cell phones** and personal electronic devices.
- Be **honest and truthful** in all that I say and do.
- Provide a trusting environment for my peers. When others share something about themselves, I will not repeat that information to other people outside of the group.
- Be **mindful of safety**. This means that I will never be off by myself, that my leaders need to know where I am at ALL times, and that I will refrain from activity that could harm me or others.
- Act appropriately in my **relationships**. Couples should never be alone at any time, and there should be no public (or private) displays of affection.
- Use positive **language** that reflects Jesus Christ. This means I will refrain from profanity, derogatory comments, and "put downs" at all times.
- **Promote mental wellbeing** of myself, my peers, and my advisors. I will do this by dealing with issues around mental health and stress effectively. I will communicate with my advisors if I feel mine or someone else's mental wellbeing is at risk.
- **Respect physical property**, including the places we visit, the vehicles in which we travel, restaurants where we eat, and facilities where we stay. If I mess it up, I clean it up...If I break it, I buy it!
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, vaporizers, weapons (including pocket knives), and/or illegal drugs of any kind.
- **Have fun, help others to have fun, and get to know others**. I will treat others as I want to be treated (such as being inclusive, refraining from harmful jokes, respecting others' need for sleep, etc.)
- **Respect adults, peers and children**. I will do this by acknowledging and honoring the boundaries set forth by advisors and peers, in order to protect ALL peoples mental, spiritual and physical safety.
- Abide by all Medical safety guidelines as set forth by the youth directors and adult leaders, recognizing that these guidelines may be ever-changing as the year progresses. Guidelines will be clearly communicated prior to each youth activity, but will be adapted on an as needed bases.

Guidelines for Consequences:

When this covenant is breached, consequences will be considered opportunities to disciple and lovingly guide youth towards making better choices. Appropriate consequences will be decided upon by adult leaders, and are subject to change with multiple advisor support. Covenant breaches fall into three groups: **minor, moderate, and major**. **Minor issues** (such as use of inappropriate language, disregard of instruction from adult leaders, removing oneself from the group) will be addressed by adults with a verbal warning. **Moderate issues** (such as repeated minor issues, going off alone, and blatant disrespect) will be addressed by removing the youth from the situation and having a conversation with them about the issue at hand. **Major issues** (such as the use of alcohol, drugs, or weapons, sneaking out, any illegal activity, physical fighting, repeat minor or moderate issues, etc.) will result in the youth's parents being called and may result in the youth being sent home at parent's expense (use or possession of substances will result in youth being sent home—zero tolerance). Please see the Youth Discipline Policy for additional information regarding major issues.

Signature: In signing this covenant, I vow that I have read and understand these guidelines. I recognize that a covenant is a binding promise, and my signature means that I agree to follow this covenant.

Youth: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Youth Discipline Policy First Presbyterian Church

The Youth Ministry Team, pastors and youth advisors of First Presbyterian Church strive to create a positive, safe, and healthy environment in which our young people can grow in Christian faith. The following policies have been created to ensure that we provide such an environment for our youth, to clearly define our expectations for them, and for the youth to take responsibility for their actions. The policies also serve to guide the advisors, teachers and other adult leaders as they seek to help our youth grow in their relationships with each other, the church family and God. The scenarios forth below do not reflect all reasons to send a youth home. The action of sending a youth home will be at the discretion of present youth advisors.

Use or possession of illegal substances:

The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco products, vaporizers, and illegal drugs will be strictly prohibited during any youth activities. If a youth is found to be in possession of or under the influence of such substances, parents will be called immediately to come remove them, at the parent's expense, from the activity. That youth will not be allowed to return to youth functions until they and their parent(s), at a minimum, meet with the Youth Director and Youth Ministry Team chair. The Youth Ministry Team and staff will then determine if any additional steps are appropriate before they will be allowed to return to youth activities. If there is a second offense, the youth will be suspended from all youth activities until staff and the Youth Ministry Team can determine an appropriate course of action.

Use or possession of weapons:

The use or possession of any type of weapon, including but not limited to guns, knives or chemical spray, during youth activities will be strictly prohibited. This includes knives of any type, including pocket knives. A breach of this rule will result in the youth being removed from the activity and a parent contacted. The Youth Ministry Team and Youth Director will determine an appropriate course of action beyond that.

Sexual behavior:

Sexual behavior by youth group members when involved in church activities is prohibited. If youth group members are also involved in a romantic relationship, when participating in youth group activities they are to refrain from all physical signs of affection. A breach of this rule will result in the youth being removed from the activity and a parent contacted. The Youth Ministry Team and Youth Director will determine an appropriate course of action beyond that.

Physical violence:

Physical violence by youth group members when involved in church activities is prohibited. All members of the youth group including visitors, advisors, and youth should keep their hands to themselves. If a disagreement is to occur, all parties should handle the disagreement in a peaceful and mindful manor. A breach of this rule will result in the youth being removed from the activity and a parent contacted. The Youth Ministry Team and Youth Director will determine an appropriate course of action beyond that.

Repeat Moderate Offenses:

It is important for youth to know and understand that rules and regulations must be followed and blatant disregard for the rules can put themselves and others in unsafe positions. Repeat moderate offenses can result in the youth being removed from the activity and a parent contacted. Youth Ministry Team and Youth Director will determine an appropriate course of action beyond that.

Signature: In signing this policy, I vow that I have read and understand these guidelines. I recognize that the policy above is written to protect the mental spiritual and physical safety of ALL youth, and adults.

Youth: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____