

LOS ALTOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

COVENANT FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

To provide a safe and supportive environment for children and youth and the persons who work with them at LAUMC, to provide a strong and healthy volunteer environment at LAUMC, and to minimize the possibilities of child abuse occurring in connection with LAUMC programs, when I am working with children or youth as part of an LAUMC program, I agree:

- ♣ To treat all children and youth with respect and consideration.
- ♣ To treat all children and youth equally regardless of sex, race, religion or culture.
- ♣ To use positive techniques of guidance such as redirection, positive reinforcement and encouragement rather than competition, comparison and criticism.
- ♣ To have age-appropriate expectations and establish guidelines and environments that minimize the need for discipline.
- ♣ To refrain from any behavior that could be considered abusive to children or youth including:
 - physical abuse -striking, spanking, shaking, slapping
 - verbal abuse - humiliation, degradation, threats
 - sexual abuse - inappropriate touch or verbal exchange
 - mental abuse - shaming, withholding love, cruelty
 - neglect - withholding food, water, basic care
- ♣ To remain at all times with any child under the age of 8 who has been left in my care.
- ♣ To release a child under the age of 8 only to his or her parent, unless specifically instructed otherwise by the parent.
- ♣ To immediately inform the staff member responsible for children or youth ministry if I believe there is any reason that a minor child should not be released to the care of their parent, guardian or designated adult.
- ♣ To remain in view of others at all times whenever I am working with a child or youth.
- ♣ To check the restroom or ask a staff member responsible for children or youth ministry to do so to ensure that it is not occupied by suspicious or unknown individuals before allowing a child under the age of 8 to use a rest room.
- ♣ To leave restroom doors open when assisting a younger child.

- ♣ To conduct or supervise private activities, such as diapering, with another adult or where I will be visible to others.
- ♣ To respect children's and youth's rights to not be touched in ways that make them feel uncomfortable and their right to say no to touching.
- ♣ To maintain an attitude of respect, loyalty, patience, courtesy, tact and maturity to be a positive role model for children and youth.
- ♣ To refrain from intimate displays of affection towards others in the presence of children and youth.
- ♣ To not use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during the times I am working with children or youth. Anytime that I am scheduled to work with children or youth, if I am under the influence of alcohol, any illegal substance or prescription drug which impairs my ability to work safely with children or youth, I will call and inform the staff that I cannot work and no questions will be asked.
- ♣ To not use profanity, tell inappropriate jokes or share intimate details of my personal life in the presence of children or youth.
- ♣ To not date LAUMC program participants who are under 18 years of age (applies ONLY to those 18 years and older.)
- ♣ To inform a staff member responsible for children or youth ministry if I believe there is any reason I should not be charged with the care of children or youth, including any physical or psychological condition.
- ♣ To be aware of the health of children and youth, noting any fever, bumps, bruises, burns, etc., and to report any concerns I have about suspected abuse to a staff member responsible for children or youth ministry.
- ♣ To attend orientation sessions offered by LAUMC that include the recognition of the signs of child abuse and LAUMC's policies and procedures regarding the care of children and youth.
- ♣ To comply with the LAUMC Volunteer and Child Protection Policy.

I understand that abiding by these promises is important and necessary to my participation with children and youth as part of LAUMC programs.

Signed by: _____ **Date signed:** _____

Please print your name: _____