

CHILDREN AND YOUTH LEADER COVENANT

(for Deans' use with leaders at any Conference or District event)

Conference/district activities offer a unique setting for ministry to and with children and youth. We acknowledge that a special covenant is created when churches and parents entrust their children and youth to the care of leaders in these settings. We hold each child and youth as a person of immeasurable worth as a child of God. With this understanding I agree to:

(INITIAL each item to which you covenant)

- Respect each child, youth and adult, acting in an appropriate and Christian manner with each person I come into contact;
- Attend training events and prepare myself in advance for the event(s) where I will work;
- Follow the directions of the event leadership and the policies of the oversight committees;
- Offer opportunities for growth (including spiritual growth) in settings and activities appropriate to the children/youth's ages and stages of development
- Support the United Methodist Church, being aware of and sensitive to its Doctrine and Social Creed;
- Open myself to the spiritual growth possible for me as I live through this experience;
- Be willing to share of my unique gifts while honoring the gifts of others;
- Act only in ways that will offer glory and honor to God and God's gift of community and creation;
- Live by the understanding that, as a person in authority, it is my responsibility to avoid inappropriate physical contact with children/youth/vulnerable adults/developmentally disabled persons in my care, even if one attempts to initiate the contact;
- Refrain from verbal abuse, including put-downs, inappropriate jokes, sarcasm, and racial slurs;
- Refrain from fraternizing with children/youth after the event unless in the capacity of an adult designated to work with children/youth in professional or volunteer settings;
- Find alternative ways to discipline, agreeing that under no circumstances will I use spanking, neck or choke holds, ear or hair pulling or any other corporal punishment as a means of discipline;
- Make it my primary responsibility to minister to the needs of the children/youth and not my own, with Christ as my example;
- Be in prayer throughout the coming weeks for this event, other leaders and children/youth who will be attending;
- Accept, respect and be responsive to the multicultural diversity of this event.

Signature _____ Date _____

*Rules for acceptance and participation in programs are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. **Final selection of the event staff is the Dean's decision.***