

**GULF BREEZE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SAFE SANCTUARIES PARTICIPATION COVENANT**

Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church (GBUMC) and its congregation are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, at-risk or vulnerable adults, and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by GBUMC. The following policy statements reflect the commitment of GBUMC and its congregation 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.

- Adults who have been convicted of child abuse of any kind are not allowed to volunteer for work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
- Adult survivors of child abuse need the love and support of our congregation. Any adult survivor who desires to volunteer in some capacity to work with children or youth is encouraged to discuss his or her willingness with one of the church's ministers before accepting an assignment.
- All volunteers must have demonstrated an active relationship in the local church where service will occur for a minimum of six months prior to being permitted to service as an authority figure.
- Adult volunteers with children and youth or at-risk or vulnerable adults shall observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children or youth or at-risk or vulnerable adults.
- Adult volunteers with children and youth and/or at-risk or vulnerable adults shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the church to keep volunteers informed of church policies and state laws regarding abuse of child, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults.
- Adult volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

Please mark each of the statements "Yes" to which you will commit:

- _____ 1. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to observe and abide by all church policies regarding working in ministries with children and youth.
- _____ 2. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times.
- _____ 3. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to abide by the six-month rule before beginning a volunteer assignment.
- _____ 4. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to participate in training and education events provided by the church related to my volunteer assignment.
- _____ 5. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to my supervisor.
- _____ 6. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to discuss with a minister of this congregation my experience, if any, as a survivor of child abuse.
- _____ 7. As a volunteer in this congregation, I agree to inform a minister of this congregation if I have ever been convicted of child abuse.

After reading this participation covenant, I agree to abide by the policies set forth above.

_____ Full Name of Volunteer

_____ Signature of Volunteer

_____ Date of Signature

Address (Including City, State, and Zip): _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____