
Note: This sample is for general guideline use only; some sections may or may not apply to your local church setting. Your church policy should be written to address your local church and community safety issues.

Protection and Integration of Known Sexual Offenders

Sample Covenant

Covenant of Participation

_____(CHURCH NAME)_____
United Methodist Church, hereafter referred to as the church, affirms the dignity and worth of all people. We are committed to being a religious community, open to those who wish to worship with us, especially in times of serious personal troubles. However, based on your background and personal history, we need to covenant together about your contact with children, youth, and other vulnerable people in our congregation. Although we welcome you to our congregation and our membership, your participation in events involving the children/youth of the church and those considered vulnerable adults will be limited to ensure the safety of these people and to reduce risks to you. The following guidelines have been established to that end.

The congregation welcomes your participation in church activities and affirms that you must act within the guidelines set forth herein when attempting to serve in any role that includes children, youth, or other vulnerable populations:

1. You shall comply fully with all restrictions and requirements placed upon you as a result of any legal actions—past, present, and future.
2. You shall not be alone at any time with any child, youth, or vulnerable adult.
3. You shall participate in professional counseling throughout the duration of your involvement with the church.
4. You shall be a member of an accountability group, made up of at least two members of the congregation (one of which shall be the same sex as you), the senior pastor of the church (or another church leader designated to act as a representative of the senior pastor), and you. This group will be assigned to you for the entirety of your involvement with the church.
 - a. The accountability group will establish a schedule for partnering with you whenever you are planning to be on church property or participate in a church-sponsored event. This schedule will be kept on record with the Safe Sanctuaries team and will be posted in the church office.
 - b. One member of your accountability group will be with you at all times when you are on church property or at a church-sponsored event. The accountability group member who is scheduled to partner with you will remain beside you, in close proximity to you, at all times, when you are on church property or participating in a church-sponsored event.
 - c. The accountability group will meet together with you, at least once a month, to offer support, discuss issues you may be having, and to pray with you. If the need to meet more frequently occurs, the frequency will be determined by the accountability group in response to your needs.
 - d. The accountability group will report quarterly to the Safe Sanctuaries team, your probation/parole officer, and your professional counselor.
 - e. You shall take the most direct, visible route to your destination with your accountability partner.

- f. If restroom facilities are needed while on church grounds, use the restroom in the _____ (IDENTIFY SINGLE-OCCUPANT BATHROOM IF POSSIBLE) _____. One member of your accountability group will check the restroom facility before you enter to ensure it is vacant. You will be permitted to enter, and the accountability team member will ensure no one else enters while you occupy the restroom. The team member will then accompany you back to your seat or off church property.
5. At no time, even with a member of your accountability group, are you to be in _____ (IDENTIFY ANY AREAS THAT ARE OFF-LIMITS) _____.
6. You are welcome to attend, accompanied by a member of your accountability group, any public worship service; _____ (LIST MINISTRY OPTIONS WHERE THIS PERSON WOULD BE WELCOMED) _____; and any other public worship service not designated for children, youth, or other vulnerable people. You may also attend those worship services not predominately led and directed by children or youth, as approved by your accountability group.
7. Any church-sponsored activity held off-site from the church campus shall be approved by the Safe Sanctuaries team prior to participation.
8. Upon arrival at church, you shall report to the church office where you will sign in and wait for a member of your accountability group to escort you to your destination. Once your worship experience or your business is complete, you shall return to the church office to sign out before leaving the church property. The accountability group member escorting you will initial both signing in and out. If the church office is locked and no member of your accountability group is available to meet with you, you are to immediately leave the church property.
9. At no time shall you hold a position of authority with the church or serve as a representative of the church for groups that include ministry with vulnerable populations.
10. At no time will your name be allowed to appear in the church newsletter, the weekly bulletin, or in any item of print associated with the church, excluding the weekly prayer concern list and the church directory.
11. As part of our church family and in an attempt to provide the safest environment possible, you shall inform your accountability group and the Safe Sanctuaries team if you become aware of other sex offender(s) who are attending our church.
12. Terms of this covenant will be reviewed with your probation/parole officer, sex offender treatment provider, and any other person involved in your aftercare or treatment prior to your involvement with the church.
13. The covenant must be signed by a representative of your accountability group, your probation/parole officer, sex offender treatment provider, and any other person involved in your after-care or treatment prior to your involvement with the church.
14. This covenant will remain on file with the church and will be readily available to members of the church. It will be shared with all people involved directly with children, youth, and other vulnerable people working with the church.

By signing this covenant, I agree that if at any time, any item of this covenant is suspected of being broken, I will meet with the Safe Sanctuaries team.

- I agree that all findings of the Safe Sanctuaries team are final.
- I agree that if the Safe Sanctuaries team finds that any item of this covenant at any time was broken, I will immediately discontinue attendance at all church functions.
- I understand and agree that all church members will be made aware of the violation.
- I agree that all violations will be shared with my accountability group, my probation/parole officer, sex offender treatment provider, and any other person involved in my aftercare or treatment.

Any violation that occurs that is illegal in nature will be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities.

_____	_____
Signature	Date

_____	_____
Accountability Group Rep. Signature	Date

_____	_____
Senior Pastor Signature	Date

_____	_____
Probation/Parole Officer Signature	Date

_____	_____
Professional Counselor Signature	Date