



Middletown United Methodist Church

924 Middletown-Lincroft Rd., Middletown, NJ 07748

732-671-0707

Web Site: www.middletownumcnj.org

PARTICIPATION MINISTRY COVENANT

The congregation of **The Middletown United Methodist Church** is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, vulnerable adults, and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. The following statements reflect our congregation's commitment 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:

1. No adult who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual, physical, or emotional) should work with children, youth or vulnerable adults in any church-sponsored activity.
2. 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, youth, and/or vulnerable adults is encouraged to discuss his/her willingness with one of our church's ministers before accepting an assignment.
3. Volunteers need to review our Safe Sanctuary Policy, become familiar with its procedures, and agree to abide by it. Adult volunteers shall observe (a) the Two-Adult Rule at all times [preferred] or (b) the one adult with a youth (that is at least 5 years older than the class) so that no adult is ever alone with children, youth, or vulnerable adults. (Please review the attached Middletown UMC Safe Sanctuary policy for more discussion on this and related guidelines for church workers and volunteers.)
4. Adult volunteers shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the church, District, or Conference to keep volunteers informed of church policies and state laws regarding abuse of vulnerable persons.
5. Adult volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

Please answer each of the following questions after reviewing the Middletown UMC Safe Sanctuary Policy:

1. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe and abide by the Safe Sanctuary Policy regarding working in ministries with children, youth or vulnerable adults? ___ Yes ___ No
2. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe the Two-Adult Rule and other procedures in the Safe Sanctuary Policy at all times? ___ Yes ___ No
3. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to participate in training and education events provided by the church related to your volunteer assignment?
4. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to your supervisor? ___ Yes ___ No
5. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to discuss with a minister of this congregation your experience, if any, as a survivor of child abuse? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Not Applicable (*Answering Yes to this question does not automatically disqualify you from volunteering with children or youth.*)
6. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to inform a minister of this congregation if you have been ever been convicted of child abuse? ___ Yes ___ No

I have read this **Participation Covenant**, and I agree to observe and abide by the policies set forth above.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print Full Name