

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church
301 South New Hope Road
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054
704-864-3222 (FAX) 704-866-3223

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION COVENANT STATEMENT

The congregation of Myers Memorial UMC is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth 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.

No adult who has been convicted for, entered a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere/no contest to, or been the subject of deferred prosecution or prayer for judgment continued for, a crime (felony or misdemeanor) involving children under the age of 18 or child abuse or neglect (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or emotional abuse) should volunteer or otherwise be allowed to 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/her willingness with one of our Church's ministers before accepting an assignment.

All adult volunteers assisting with children or youth of our Church must have been involved in the congregation for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment.

Adult volunteers with children and youth shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the Church to keep volunteers informed of Church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.

Adult volunteers will immediately report to the pastor or staff any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

Please answer each of the following questions:

1. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe and abide by all Church policies and procedures regarding working in ministries with children and youth?
Yes No
2. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to abide by the six-month rule before beginning a volunteer assignment with children and youth? Yes No
3. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to undergo a criminal and other background check prior to serving as a volunteer with children or youth? Yes No
4. 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? Yes No
5. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior as noted above? Yes No
6. 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
(Answering yes to this question does not automatically disqualify you from volunteering with children or youth.)
7. Have you ever been convicted for, entered a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere/no contest to, or been the subject of deferred prosecution or prayer for judgment continued for, a crime (felony or misdemeanor) involving children under the age of 18 or child abuse or neglect (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or emotional abuse)? Yes No

I have read this **Participation Covenant** and the **Church's Safe Sanctuaries Policy**, and I agree to observe and abide by such expectations.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print Full Name