

First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna's Youth Covenant

This Covenant was created to help us understand and abide by expectations for us (the youth) of FPC Smyrna whether we are gathering for conferences, camping, community activities, recreational fun, music, worship, or just hanging out.

It is to help foster a respectful, safe and healthy environment in which we can explore our faith, make new friends, worship and learn together as children of God.

Webster defines COVENANT as "*a binding and solemn agreement made by two or more individuals, parties, etc. to do or keep from doing something.*"

In other words, a covenant is a promise to relate to one another and God in a particular way. Whenever individuals relate to each other, travel together, eat together, share living areas, attend events together, each person has certain expectations of others. Covenants help us to know the common and agreed upon ways in which we will relate to each other.

Because God calls each of us to be a community of faith, **I covenant with God and all others engaged** in the Youth Ministry of FPC Smyrna to conduct myself in a manner that promotes a community of faith, at all meetings and events, in which I am a participant.

I will abide by the *rules and respect the property of all people and places where we travel - conferences, recreational fun, music, and worship – any event/place that we may attend.

*I will observe **curfews each evening whether at a conference, camp or overnight at the church*

There will be no use of illegal drugs or alcohol

There will be no use of tobacco

*There will be no use of cell phones or other electronic devices **if it is stated***

I will respect our group time, where I am together with my peers for meals, prayer, discussion, etc. and not participate in activities on my phone or electronic device. My phone will be on vibrate and I will respond during free and personal time.

I will keep any audio devices at a low volume.

I will model a positive attitude and spirit of generosity, compassion, service and respect at each event I attend and will encourage others to do the same.

I will treat all people with dignity and respect.

I will respect every individual's racial-ethnic background that I meet.

I will respect the decisions of the conference leadership.

I will respect the decisions made by the leadership on any outing or event I am part of.

I will not engage in bullying, teasing and the mistreatment of any other person, at any time.

I will not engage in any form of sexual harassment.

I will not engage in any form of harmful physical contact.

I will participate in all conference or group activities, to the best of my ability.

I will honor my responsibility to the group to be on time and prepared.

I will not leave any meeting facility, activity, or my group without first letting a leader/chaperone know and obtaining their permission.

I will honor my responsibility to the group to help with any daily chores that are assigned and to keep our temporary living arrangements orderly and clean.

I will clean up after myself, so it does not fall on others.

I will be responsible for my own belongings and respect others' property.

I will be mindful of my roommate's privacy and desires (quiet time, etc.)

I will observe the following guidelines for visiting the rooms of others:
there will be no (single) opposite gender visitation in the rooms
doors will remain open when others are present in the room

I will communicate. If anyone in the group is not being respectful or not honoring this covenant, I will ask for a gathering of our peers to discuss openly any grievances or concerns that I, the chaperones or anyone else in the group may have. I, as a Youth of FPC Smyrna, will not tolerate anyone disobeying any of the rules mentioned.

I understand and accept that violation of this Covenant could result in my returning home from any event, before the conclusion of a conference, recreational outing, etc.

Signature of youth of FPC Smyrna _____ Date: _____

As leaders/chaperones of the youth at First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna, I hereby abide by the

rules, listed above, when gathering with the youth of FPC Smyrna.

I will give the participants, of any activity I am a part of, my respect.

I will give the participants, of any activity I am a part of, my listening ear.

I will be fair.

I will be firm.

In turn for my respect to them, the participants of the group I am with are to follow the rules and to treat each individual as they so desire to be treated. I will not tolerate lack of manners or respect.

If I, as a leader/chaperone, deem that they are not being respectful, we will sit down and communicate.

I, as a leader/chaperone, can and will notify parents if it is deemed necessary after the initial conversation.

Signature of leadership/chaperone _____ date _____

As a parent(s) of one or more of the youth at First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna, I acknowledge that I have read the above Covenant and have discussed with my youth, their responsibilities and actions when representing FPC Smyrna and themselves, not only within the church, but as young adults in the community.

I am also aware of Montreat's Covenant and their agreement with my youth that they will be sent home, at my expense, if the leadership of Montreat deems necessary.

Signature of parent(s) _____
Date: _____

When at Montreat Conferences:

**The youth Montreat Conference Covenant, that is to be signed by each participant and their parents, states that if the leadership team and/or the president of Montreat Conference Center deem I have broken their covenant by disrespecting or endangering others, or myself I may be sent home at the discretion of that leadership. If they deem that necessary, such action will be undertaken at my parent's expense and the leadership of my church will be notified.*

***While there is a curfew for both Montreat Conferences, the Middle School Conference housing is in dorm rooms and as such, the youth attending the M SC need to be more aware of curfew times and rules. As they will be living together with other conference participants for several days in a dorm setting, they are expected to not be in the halls after curfew but in their room, quietly talking and no music so other rooms next to them will be able to sleep.*

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