

**Appendix B**  
**Volunteer Covenant**

SMUMC is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children and youth and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by this church. The following policy statements reflect our congregation's commitment to preserving this church as a holy place of worship, safe and secure for all who enter and as a place which everyone can experience God's love through fellowship and growth in Christ.

1. Persons who have been convicted of child neglect or abuse (sexual, physical, and/or emotional) shall not volunteer to work with children or youth in any SMUMC sponsored activity or in any activity to which SMUMC is providing volunteers or participants.

2. Adult survivors of child abuse need the love and support of the SMUMC congregation. Any adult survivor of child abuse or neglect who desires to volunteer in some capacity in working with children or youth is encouraged to discuss his/her willingness with the Pastor before accepting any assignment.

3. All adult volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must have been a member or active participant of the congregation for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment.

4. Adult volunteers of children and youth groups shall observe the "Two-Adult Rule" whenever practical. A minimum of two teachers shall be present during any children/youth's activity. All volunteers will read and comply with the Safe Sanctuary policy. SMUMC will strive to never have a teacher working alone with any children. When two adults are not available, the door to the classroom will remain open; or an adult visitor age 23 years or older; or a youth assistant 15 years of age or older may serve as an observer.

5. 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 and neglect.

6. Adult volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

**Please answer the following:**

1. As a volunteer in the St. Mark United Methodist congregation, do you agree to observe and abide by all the church policies regarding working in ministries with children and youth?  Yes  No

2. Do you understand and agree to observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times?  Yes  No

3. Do you understand and agree to observe the six-month participation/membership rule required before beginning volunteer service?  Yes  No

4. Have you been trained in SMUMC's Safe Sanctuary policy program and agree to abide by its dictates, expectations, and requirements?  Yes  No

5. Do you agree to promptly report to your supervisor any observance, awareness or suspicion of abusive, or inappropriate behavior as defined in your training?  Yes  No

6. As a volunteer of SMUMC, do you agree to inform the Pastor of this church if you have ever been convicted of child abuse or neglect?  Yes  No

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

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed Training: \_\_\_\_\_