

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## **SAFE SANCTUARY COVENANT STATEMENT**

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The congregation of Damascus United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children and youth, as well as all paid staff and volunteers who participate in children and youth ministries and activities sponsored by the church. The following policy 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 paid staff person or volunteer who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or emotional abuse) may work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.

2. Survivors of child abuse need the love and support of our congregation. Any survivor of child abuse who desires to work as a paid staff person or volunteer in some capacity with children or youth is encouraged to discuss his/her experience with the pastor before accepting an assignment.

3. All paid staff and volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must abide by the Safe Sanctuary Policies and Procedures.

4. All paid staff and volunteers involved with children or youth must attend regular training and educational events provided by the church related to their job or volunteer assignment, including those providing information about church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.

5. All paid staff and volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor or the pastor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

### **Please answer each of the following questions:**

1. As a paid staff person or volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to inform the pastor of this congregation if you are convicted of child abuse?  
\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

2. Please answer the following question only if you are a survivor of child abuse. As a paid staff person or volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to discuss with the pastor of this congregation your experience as a survivor of child abuse?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

*(Answering yes to this question does not automatically disqualify you from volunteering with children or youth.)*

3. As a paid staff person or volunteer, do you agree to observe and abide by the Safe Sanctuary Policies and Procedures?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

4. As a paid staff person or volunteer, do you agree to participate in regular training and educational events provided by the church related to your job or volunteer assignment, including those providing information about church policies and state laws regarding child abuse?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

5. As a paid staff person or volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to your supervisor or the pastor?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (age, if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if under 18)

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_