

Community Church at Ocean Pines
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PARTICIPATION COVENANT STATEMENT

The Congregation of Community Church at Ocean Pines 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 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 adult who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or emotional abuse) should volunteer to work with children or youth 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 or youth is encouraged to discuss his/her willingness with one of our church's ministers before accepting assignment.
3. All adult volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must have been members (or regularly attending) for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment.
4. The ***Two Adults Rule*** means that no fewer than two adults (unrelated by blood or marriage) will be present at all times during any church sponsored program or event.
5. Adult volunteers with children and youth shall observe the ***Two Adults Rule*** at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children or youth.
6. All adult workers shall be over the age of 18 and observe the ***Five Years Older Rule***.
7. The ***Five Years Older Rule*** means that youth workers will be at least five years older than the children/youth served in the ministries.
8. Adult volunteers with church 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.
9. Adult volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.
10. An Application, three references, a Participation Covenant and background screening is required for all volunteers working with Children and youth.

Please answer each of the following questions:

1. As a volunteer in this church, do you agree to observe and abide by all church policies regarding working in ministries with children and youth?
Yes_____No_____
2. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe the **“The Two Adult Rule”** to the best of your ability?
Yes_____No_____
3. As a volunteer in this church, do you agree to abide by the **“Six-month Rule”** before beginning a volunteer assignment?
Yes_____No_____
4. As a volunteer in this church, 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 church, do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to your supervisor?
Yes_____No_____
6. As a volunteer in this church, would you like to discuss with a minister of this church your experience, if any, as survivor of child abuse?
Yes_____No_____
- _____not applicable (*Answering “yes” to this question does not automatically disqualify you from Volunteering with children or youth.*)
7. As a volunteer of this church, do you agree to inform a minister of this church if you have 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.

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____