

# **Paid Staff/Volunteer Participation Covenant Statement**

## **Introduction**

**Jesus said “Whoever welcomes a child, welcomes me.” Matthew 18:5**

The General conference of The United Methodist Church, in April 1996, adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of child sexual abuse or inappropriate conduct/ behavior in the church. Thus, in covenant with all United Methodist congregations, we adopted this policy for the prevention of child abuse or inappropriate contact in our church or any on or off site church sponsored activity.

## **Purpose**

**“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.” Matthew 18:6**

Our congregation’s purpose for establishing this Child Protection Policy is to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our children and youth under the age of 18 or have not yet completed the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Statement of Covenant**

The congregation of **The Sunbury United Methodist Church** is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, paid staff and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. The following policy statements reflects 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 or has a pending accusation of child abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or inappropriate contact or behavior should volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity without talking to the Pastor first. Any person who has been accused of inappropriate contact or behavior and has not been found innocent of the accusations should take with the Pastor before volunteering to work with children/youth.
2. Adult survivors of child abuse need the love and support of our congregation. Any adult survivor who desires to be paid staff or volunteer in some capacity to work with children or youth is encouraged to discuss his or her willingness with the Pastor before accepting an assignment.
3. All adult paid staff/volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must be actively attending our congregation for at least 6 months. If you are new to our congregation we welcome you to volunteer and you will be teamed up with another adult for a period of time until you have been active for 6 months.
4. Adult paid staff/volunteers of children and youth shall observe the “Two Adult Rule” at all times so that no adult is ever alone with a child.
5. Adult paid staff/volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

**By signing below, as a paid staff member or volunteer in this congregation, you agree to observe and abide by church policies regarding working in ministries with children/youth and not engage in any abusive or inappropriate contact or behavior with a child or youth. You understand that volunteering is a privilege and not a right and you can be removed at any time for any reason.**

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name in full: \_\_\_\_\_

## Permission to Obtain Background Check

**This form along with a copy of my driver's license** authorizes the **Sunbury United Methodist Church** to obtain background information & must be completed by the applicant.

The church must keep this completed form on file for at least 2 years after requesting a background check & **Background checks will be repeated/updated every 3 years as long as the individual is on staff or volunteers.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have never been convicted of any felony including sex-related and/or abuse related offenses or have been accused of inappropriate contact with child or youth.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize **Sunbury United Methodist Church** through its independent contractor, **First Advantage**, to procure background information about me. This report may include my driving history, including any traffic citations; a social security number verification; present and former addresses; criminal and civil history records and a state sex offender records. **This form must be completed in full.**

I understand that I am entitled to a complete copy of any background information report of which I am the subject upon my request to **Sunbury United Methodist Church**. I also understand that I may receive a written summary of my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act upon request.

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

### Identifying Information for Background Check Agency

**Please print clearly.** All information must be completed in full

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Other names used (alias, maiden, nickname) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street/P.O. Box) (City) (State) (County) (Zip)

Former Address (If less than 5 years): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (County) (Zip)

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have included a copy of my photo I.D. with this application.**