

# YOUTH COVENANT OF CONDUCT

Revised September 2017

*The following is a covenant between students and Bethany Baptist Church. It applies to all regular meetings, worship, special events, trip, camps, retreats, and other endeavors under the sponsorship of Bethany Baptist Church. Students who participate in any function of the church are to keep in mind they are responsible for their own actions. They should also keep in mind that when on trips with the church they represent Christ, His church (to include Bethany Baptist Church), other believers and the legacy of Christ and His church within this community.*

## **As a part of attending Bethany Baptist Church groups, events, outings, trips or ministries, I covenant to...**

1. Remain at church events/functions for the duration of the event/activity/function. If I need to leave early, I must have written permission (or youth pastor must be able to get speak with a parent/legal guardian via telephone).
2. Respect others (even if I do not always like what they say, do or believe).
3. Respect the pastors, leaders and adults in charge without protest (this does not mean that an instruction cannot be politely questioned if it seems unreasonable).
4. Respect the physical/emotional wellbeing of others (to include not doing things that could harm another or intentionally hurt them).
5. Respect the worship of those around me by limiting side-talk and refraining from offensive language, behavior, talk/joking.
6. Respect the health of my body by refraining from tobacco, alcohol and drug use. I understand use of these and other illegal substances on church property or church-sponsored trips are absolutely prohibited.
7. Respect the property of the church and venues or facilities of places we visit. Damage caused to any property by me is my responsibility to pay for, replace and/or fix.
8. Participate fully in all scheduled group activities and conversations and abide by additional group guidelines made during a special event or trip. I understand I am a valuable part of the group and it helps me and benefits others when I share my thoughts, opinions and insights with the group and when I participate fully.
9. Act appropriately with members of the opposite sex. This means keeping physical interaction, conversations, jokes and comments pure in nature; never being alone with a member of the opposite sex (in particular away from public eye) and refraining from any physical displays of affection. I also understand that on trips, unless it is absolutely unavoidable, students will only sit on seats shared by the same gender.
10. Provide a trusting environment for my peers. When someone shares something I promise not to share that information with friends in or outside of the church (unless required by the law or to protect my peer should the information shared be deemed life-threatening or otherwise harmful to themselves or other people; in which case, I ought to notify the youth pastor, senior pastor and/or appropriate authorities). I understand that general gossip is not beneficial for anyone.
11. Dress appropriately (including appropriate logos, messages, images, fit/modesty, etc.). I agree to fix wardrobe issues should an adult of the church/youth staff approach me; however, I understand the best way for me to handle this is by being proactive in managing this beforehand in my choice of clothing/swimwear.
12. **Seek restoration.** When someone does wrong to me or someone else I will do all I can to confront the injustice (using adult intervention if needed) in an effort to heal hurts and bring relationships back together. I understand forgiveness is a powerful way to show love and glorify God.
13. Hold safety in the highest regard and refrain from compromising my own safety or the safety of another.
14. Stay in assigned areas. I understand that during regular group meetings (this includes the time before and after meetings) students are not to wander about the church property without adult supervision.
15. Only use cell phones or devices during appropriate times and will shut them off or leave them at home when instructed.
16. Refrain from handling other people's property unless expressly asked to do so by the person. This includes taking or playing with other people's phones or devices.
17. Leave weapons or items that can misperceived as weapons at home (to include pocket knives, fireworks, lighters, guns, etc.).
18. When driving on church property or at church-sponsored events, students and parents will obey all road safety laws and exercise extreme caution when driving in parking lots. NOTE: Repeat offenders who practice unsafe driving practices while on church property or church-sponsored trips can be prohibited from driving on church property and to/from church-sponsored events (at the discretion of the Youth Pastor, Senior Pastor or Deacon body).

## **Consequences and Conflict Resolution:**

Consequences will focus on restoration among all parties involved. The goal of resolving each problem will be growth and learning through repentance and forgiveness. Any issues or conflicts encountered will be handled by adult leaders in charge to the fullest extent possible. Should the problem persist parents/guardians may be contacted and informed of the situation or, depending on the severity of the situation, asked to pick up their student or provide transportation home for their student at their own expense. Should such measures be necessary it may affect the student's participation in future events, meetings or trips.