



## **SAMPLE SAFE SANCTUARY CONVENANT**

### **between the Offender and the Congregation**

St. Sanctuary Church is open to all people who affirm faith in accordance with the United Methodist Denomination and who meet or exceed the minimum requirements of membership as stated in St. Sanctuary's Bylaws. We are also committed to providing members and friends with a true sanctuary for worship, education, fellowship and service.

Given our beliefs about membership and safe sanctuary, and given that you, \_\_\_\_\_ (the person's name), were convicted by the State of \_\_\_\_\_ of a sex offense involving a minor in \_\_\_\_\_ (year), it is in the best interest of St. Sanctuary's members and friends, including you, that very clear boundaries be defined and maintained with regard to your participation in the life of the church, and that information about your status as a convicted sex offender will be shared with some members of the church staff, Cabinet, parents of minor children, volunteers who work with St. Sanctuary's children and youth programs and possibly the entire congregation. This information will be shared in a three-phase process as described in the church's Safe Church Policy.

You are welcome to attend coffee hour, congregational meetings and board and committee meetings (in accordance with the church bylaws), and all-church fellowship events. You are also welcome to request and receive pastoral care from St. Sanctuary's clergy, including receiving assistance with referrals to professional counselors, with the following stipulations:

- ◆ You will remain in the presence of a designated parish companion while attending church events, meeting with the designated parish companion at the parking lot and staying with him/her during time on the grounds of St. Sanctuary. All members of St. Sanctuary's (children and youth) staff and volunteers, and parents of minor children will be informed that you are a convicted sex offender. These companions will be designated by the Ministers, include the following persons:

---

---

- ◆ You are responsible for scheduling his companions.
- ◆ You will not talk with minor children and/or youth.
- ◆ You will not lead, chaperone, or participate in Christian education classes for children and youth, Children's Gatherings during worship, Youth Group events, children's music or theatrical productions, and/or transporting children and/or youth to and from church outings.

- ◆ If a child or youth in the congregation approaches you, either at church or in the community, you will graciously excuse yourself from this situation.
- ◆ You will not ask for, seek access to, nor remove from the church any materials, files, directories, or rosters listing children or youth in the church.

We also understand and agree that you will be restricted from access to the church campus, and that you may be barred from all congregational activities if you refuse to sign this covenant, if you fail to comply with its stipulations, or if in the judgment of the Ministers, your behavior threatens the safety of any member of the St. Sanctuary Church community.

Finally, we understand and agree that you will be informed of any amendments to this covenant, and that these amendments may be shared with members of the St. Sanctuary Trustees and Church Council, staff, the parents of minor children, and church school and youth leaders.

The persons signing this covenant have reviewed the stipulations stated above and do agree to abide by them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(the offender)                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor    Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Director                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christian Education Director      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Trustees                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Council                      Date