



Springfield United Methodist Church Safe Sanctuaries Participation Covenant

I, _____, do hereby state that I understand the rules and procedures outlined in the Safe Sanctuaries Policy of Springfield United Methodist Church and I agree to follow these rules and procedures.

Signature

Date

The Minimum Safe Sanctuaries supervisory requirements include:

- A. **Policy Compliance** - It may be necessary to combine groups, recruit or train additional volunteers, or cancel an event to achieve Safe Sanctuary Compliance.
- B. **Two Adult Rule** – There will always be two Certified Adults (not spouses) present. This may include the presence of an Adult Monitor who frequently moves in and out of rooms providing additional supervision. An Assistant Who is a Minor shall not supervise other children.
- C. **5 Years Older Rule** – No Adult shall supervise an age group unless he/she is at least 5 years older than the Children or Youth with whom he/she is working.
- D. **Windows in Door/Open Door** – Each room/space where children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults are being cared for shall have a window in the door or the door shall be left open.
- E. **Registration** – Registration materials for activities in which children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults are outside of the direct supervision of their parents/guardians shall require signed permission forms, which include pertinent health information.
- F. **Overnight Accommodations** – At events that require overnight accommodations and co-ed off-campus day trips, participants will be supervised by a minimum of two Certified Adults (one male and one female), as well as prescribing to the adult to child ratios in this Policy (see below). For overnight accommodations, Certified Adult(s) shall sleep in separate beds from participants and any one Certified Adult shall not sleep alone in a room with any one participant.
- G. **Buddy System** – Children and Youth are required to remain with at least one other partner at all times for help and protection. In the case of middle school age children and younger, Children and/or Youth should remain in groups of three whenever possible.
- H. **Participation Covenant** - All Participants who can understand a covenant shall sign a participation covenant wherein each person states their understanding of the rules and their agreement to follow the rules.
- I. **Open Door Counseling** – Any one-to-one mentoring, consulting or counseling shall be conducted in sight of another Certified Adult.
- J. **First Aid/CPR** – At least one Certified Adult trained and certified in First Aid and CPR should be present at all SUMC activities and events.
- K. **Screening/Supervisory Requirements** outlined in this Policy shall be followed at all SUMC events.

ADULT:CHILD RATIOS

Nursery, Sunday School, & Weekly Programs:

1: 4	Infants
1: 6	Toddlers
1: 8	2-3 years of age
1:12	Pre-K-Kindergarten
1:16	1 st -12 th grades

Ministry Activities & Events:

1: 4	Infants
1: 5	Toddlers
1: 6	2-3 years of age
1: 8	Pre-K-Kindergarten
1:10	1 st -8 th grades
1:12	9 th -12 th grades