

## Safe Sanctuaries Covenant Statement

The congregation of the Gulf Shores United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, vulnerable adults and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. The following policy statements reflect the 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.

- ***Any adult who has been convicted of child/youth/elder abuse (sexual, physical, or emotional) cannot volunteer to work with children, youth or vulnerable adults.***
- *Adult volunteers shall consent to a criminal background check every two (2) years.*
- *All adult volunteers involved with children, youth or vulnerable adults shall have been a member of the congregation, attended regularly, or have a known affiliation with the church for at least three (3) months before beginning volunteer assignments.*
- *Adult volunteers with children, youth or vulnerable adults shall observe the "Two-Adult" rule at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children, youth or vulnerable adults.*
- *In order to be considered an adult authority figure, volunteers with children, youth and vulnerable adults shall be at least nineteen (19) years old and four (4) years older than the oldest child/youth in the group in which they are working.*
- *Adult volunteers with children, youth and vulnerable adults are required to attend training regarding the GSUMC Safe Sanctuaries Policy annually.*
- *Adult volunteers shall immediately report to the appropriate church staff person any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.*

### **Please initial each of the following statements with which you agree:**

- \_\_\_ 1. I understand and agree to observe and abide by the GSUMC Safe Sanctuaries Policy regarding children, youth and vulnerable adults.
- \_\_\_ 2. I agree to observe the "Two-Adult" Rule at all times.
- \_\_\_ 3. I agree to participate in training provided by the church related to my volunteer assignment, including annual Safe Sanctuaries Policy training.
- \_\_\_ 4. I agree to promptly report to the appropriate church staff person any abusive or inappropriate behavior that I may observe.
- \_\_\_ 5. I agree to consent to a criminal background check every two (2) years.

**I completed Safe Sanctuaries training on:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**I have read this Covenant, and I agree to observe and abide by the policies set forth above.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Full Name of Volunteer**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Volunteer**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Trainer**