



**Youth Covenant
First Presbyterian Church**

While participating in youth ministry at First Presbyterian Church (FPC), I represent my own family, my church family, and Jesus Christ. As a youth group, we will conduct ourselves individually and as a group in ways that are consistent with who we are, what we profess to believe, and who and what we represent.

I will:

- **Follow all instructions** given to me by adult leaders.
- Abide by the guidelines leaders set regarding the use of **cell phones** and personal electronic devices.
- Be **honest and truthful** in all that I say and do.
- Provide a trusting environment for my peers. When others share something about themselves, I will not repeat that information to other people outside of the group.
- Be **mindful of safety**. This means that I will never be off by myself, that my leaders need to know where I am at ALL times, and that I will refrain from activity that could harm me or others.
- Act appropriately in my **relationships**. Couples should never be alone at any time, and there should be no public (or private) displays of affection.
- Use positive **language** that reflects Jesus Christ. This means I will refrain from profanity, derogatory comments, and “put downs” at all times.
- **Respect physical property**, including the places we visit, the vehicles in which we travel, restaurants where we eat, and facilities where we stay. If I mess it up, I clean it up...If I break it, I buy it!
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, vaporizers, weapons (including pocket knives), and/or illegal drugs of any kind.
- **Have fun, help others to have fun, and get to know others**. I will treat others as I want to be treated (such as being inclusive, refraining from harmful jokes, respecting others’ need for sleep, etc.)

Guidelines for Consequences:

When this covenant is breached, consequences will be considered opportunities to disciple and lovingly guide youth towards making better choices. Appropriate consequences will be decided upon by adult leaders. Covenant breaches fall into three groups: **minor, moderate, and major**. **Minor issues** (such as use of inappropriate language, disregard of instruction from adult leaders, removing oneself from the group) will be addressed by adults with a verbal warning. **Moderate issues** (such as repeated minor issues, going off alone, and blatant disrespect) will be addressed by removing the youth from the situation and having a conversation with them about the issue at hand. **Major issues** (such as the use of alcohol, drugs, or weapons, sneaking out, any illegal activity, physical fighting, etc.) will result in the youth’s parents being called and may result in the youth being sent home at parent’s expense (use or possession of substances will result in youth being sent home—zero tolerance). Please see the Youth Discipline Policy for additional information regarding major issues.

Signature:

In signing this covenant, I vow that I have read and understand these guidelines. I recognize that a covenant is a binding promise, and my signature means that I agree to follow this covenant.

Youth: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Youth Discipline Policy First Presbyterian Church

The Youth Council, pastors and youth advisors of First Presbyterian Church strive to create a positive, safe, and healthy environment in which our young people can grow in Christian faith. The following policies have been created to ensure that we provide such an environment for our youth, to clearly define our expectations for them, and for the youth to take responsibility for their actions. The policies also serve to guide the advisors, teachers and other adult leaders as they seek to help our youth grow in their relationships with each other, the church family and God.

Use or possession of illegal substances:

The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco products and illegal drugs will be strictly prohibited during any youth activities. If a youth is found to be in possession of or under the influence of such substances, parents will be called immediately to come remove them, at the parent's expense, from the activity. The Youth Council and Youth Director will meet with the parent (s). That youth will not be allowed to return to any Youth functions until they, at a minimum, come before the Youth Council to address the issue, meet with the Youth Director or Senior Pastor to express their desire for forgiveness and their commitment not to repeat the act. They will then be required to speak to the entire Youth Group and Advisors to apologize for their behavior and promise to be a positive, productive member of the group. The Youth Council and staff will then determine if any additional steps are appropriate before they will be allowed to return to Youth activities. If there is a second offense, the youth will be suspended from all Youth activities until staff and the Youth Council can determine an appropriate course of action.

Use or possession of weapons:

The use or possession of any type of weapon, to include but not limited to guns, knives or chemical spray, during youth activities will be strictly prohibited. This includes knives of any type, including pocket knives. A breach of this rule will result in the youth being removed from the activity and a parent contacted. The Youth Council and Youth Director will determine an appropriate course of action beyond that.

Sexual behavior:

Sexual behavior by youth group members when involved in church activities is prohibited. If youth group members are also involved in a romantic relationship, when participating in youth group activities they are to refrain from all physical signs of affection.