

## Applicant's Covenant Statement

The Simpsonwood United Methodist congregation is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by this church. The following policy statements reflect our congregation's commitment to preserving this church as a holy place of safety and protection for all who enter and as a place in which all people can experience the love of God through relationships with others.

1. No person who has been convicted of child abuse – either sexual, physical, or emotional – should volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
2. Survivors of child abuse need the love and support of our congregation. Any survivor who desires to volunteer in some capacity to work with children or youth is encouraged to discuss his/her willingness with one of our ordained clergies before accepting an assignment.
3. All volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must have been active for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment or be paired with a person who has been cleared through background check and reference check.
4. Volunteers with children and youth shall observe the "Two-Adult Rule" at all times so that no adult is ever alone with children or youth.
5. Volunteers with children and youth shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the church to keep volunteers informed of church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.
6. Volunteers shall immediately report to their supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

Please answer each of the following questions:

As a volunteer in this congregation, I will:

1. Observe and abide by all church policies regarding working with children and youth? Yes No
2. Abide by the six-month rule before beginning a volunteer assignment? Yes No
3. Always abide by the "Two-Adult Rule"? Yes No
4. Participate in training and education events provided by the church related to your volunteer assignment? Yes No
5. Will you promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to my supervisor, staff member or minister of this church? Yes No
6. Discuss with SUMC ordained clergy my experience, if any, as a survivor of child abuse? Yes No N/A  
(Answering yes to this question does not automatically disqualify you from volunteering with children.)
7. Inform an ordained clergy of this congregation if I have ever been convicted of child or elder abuse?  
Yes No

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

The responses I have made on this form are complete, true, and accurate.

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Signature of Applicant

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Date

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Print Name

**Simpsonwood United Methodist Church**  
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