

**The Covenant for Youth Ministry**  
First Presbyterian Church, Sumter  
Written October 10, 2004 & Reaccepted October 2006

Just as Yahweh created a covenant with his chosen people of Israel, we the youth and adult leadership of First Presbyterian Church Youth Ministry have created a covenant in order to help this community grow and thrive while we are in ministry with each other. Our covenant is to be upheld by the Director of Youth ministry, as well as, every youth participant, adult volunteer, and parent of a young person.

As a community together we agree to strive to:

- HAVE FUN
- Continuously build relationships
- Worship together
- Study God's Word
- Serve each other, our church family, our community, and all of God's people in every way we can

As a member of this community I personally agree to the following:

- I will be a faithful, committed member of this community
- I will participate fully in all activities
- I will actively include all people
- I will be honest and trustworthy
- I will work to build friendships with those in the community
- I will strive to honor God and this community in everything I do
- I will be appropriate and responsible in my expressions of care, concern, and intimacy
- I will refrain from using profanity or degrading gender, cultural or racial slurs
- I will wear appropriate clothing that is not indecently revealing or that displays profanity or degrading gender, cultural or racial slurs
- I will show respect to:
  - Myself
  - Those around me and to their ideas
  - Leaders, speakers, and drivers
  - The building and property we are using
  - Other people's possessions

If an individual does not fulfill any of the above conditions of the covenant they will be reminded by a member of the community of their signed agreement to live by the covenant and, if needed; further discussion and actions may be taken.

There are some behaviors and actions that place an individual and the community in immediate risk and will not be tolerated. Therefore; as a participant, I agree to the following restrictions:

- I will not possess or use illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, or weapons
- I will not take part in any sexual harassment or sexual intimacy
- I will not place myself and/or others at risk at anytime
- I will not break curfew or other restrictions that are set for specific events, activities, and trips

The Director of Youth Ministry and/or other adult leaders reserve the right to search luggage if there is justified suspicion of prohibited items being present. Prohibited items are illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, weapons, or any object that is being brought with the intent to harm oneself or someone else. The young person will be alerted before the search and allowed to observe. At least two adults will be present during the search. If prohibited items are found in the luggage the young person will not be allowed to attend the trip or the event and will incur the consequence listed below.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, recognize that if I do not refrain from the above behaviors and/or actions, I will be sent home immediately at my parent's/ guardian's expense, the church Session will be notified; and additional measures, such as formal apologies and/or counseling, will be taken. I will not be able to attend any out of town trips with the church for one year, nor will I be eligible for any church sponsored or

endorsed scholarships. I will also realize that I am still loved and accepted by the community and the church.

I will seek to live by and encourage others in our community to keep and live by our covenant.

“I have read the Covenant for Youth Ministry and understand all terms and conditions.”

**Signature of youth/adult:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name Printed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For Parents and Guardians of Youth:**

The main objective of all First Presbyterian Church Youth Ministry activities, trips, and programs is to nurture the Christian faith of all participating youth in a safe and welcoming environment. We believe this covenant is a crucial part of our community and ask that you read and discuss the covenant with your young person(s). If your young person has violated a part of the covenant that merits him/her being sent home at your expense, arrangements must be made and the Director of Youth Ministry or the Adult leader in charge must be notified of these arrangements within four hours. Your signature expresses that you trust the prayerful and faithful judgment of the Director of Youth Ministry and the other adult leaders.

“I have read the Covenant for Youth Ministry and understand all terms and conditions.”

**Signature of parent/guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone/Pager: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Session Endorsement:** \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of Session

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_