

Since the congregation of First UMC Shreveport is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church, we ask all volunteers to willingly, and without reservation, enter into the following covenant. This covenant is based upon our congregation’s commitment to preserving this church as a holy place of safety and protection for all who would enter as expressed in our Safe Sanctuaries Policy. This is the way, in part, in which we live out our commitment to:

- “reasonable safety measures in the selection and recruitment of both staff persons and volunteers”
 - “implement prudent operational procedures in all programs, ministries and events”
 - “provide broad education regarding our policies”
 - having “a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse.”
1. No adult who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or emotional abuse) should volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
 2. Adult survivors of child abuse need the love and support of our congregation. Any adult survivor who desires to volunteer in some capacity to work with children or youth is encouraged to discuss his/her willingness with our church minister before accepting an assignment.
 3. All adult volunteers involved with children or youth of our church must have been members of the congregation for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment, except as noted in the Safe Sanctuaries Policy.
 4. Adult 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. Adult 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. Adult volunteers shall immediately intervene and report to their designated supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.

Please answer each of the following questions:

- Yes No 1. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe and abide by First UMC Shreveport’s Safe Sanctuary Policy regarding working in ministries with children and youth?
- Yes No 2. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to observe the “Two-Adult Rule” at all times?
- Yes No 3. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to abide by the six-month rule before beginning a volunteer assignment?
- Yes No 4. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to participate in training and education events provided by the church related to your volunteer assignment?
- Yes No 5. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to your designated supervisor?
- Yes No 6. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to privately discuss with the minister of this congregation any past issues of child abuse that might affect your ability to serve?
- Yes No 7. As a volunteer in this congregation, do you agree to inform the minister of this congregation if you have ever been convicted of child abuse?

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

Signature of Applicant Date

Print full name