

## Participation Covenant Statement for Woodridge United Methodist Church

The congregation of Woodridge United Methodist Church 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. The following policy statements reflect our 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 relationship with others.

1. The recruitment of Sunday School teachers, Youth mission trip leaders, Kids Klub volunteers, and all other volunteers who work with the children of WUMC will be coordinated through the Education committee and/or Youth Council.
2. The Education Chairperson (s) and Youth Council Chairperson (s) will be responsible for collecting this Covenant Statement. Each person will be given three weeks to complete the form and return it to one of these chairpersons.
3. No adult who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect) should volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
4. 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 one of our church's ministers before accepting an assignment.
5. All adult volunteers involved with children or youth must have been a member or an active participant for at least 6 months before beginning a volunteer assignment.
6. Volunteers and Leaders will complete an application form.
7. Volunteers and Leaders at WUMC shall observe the "two leader" rule, which requires that no matter the size of the group, there will be two leaders present; one leader must be an adult (defined as anyone over the age of 18) and the other must be at least 5 years older than the age of the class. In some circumstances (including Sunday School) the second leader will be the adult roamer.
8. 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.
9. Adult volunteers and staff upon witnessing an act of abuse will intervene to protect the child and immediately call 911. The individual will then call the Illinois State Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-2873 to report the incident.
10. Adult volunteers shall immediately report to the Response Team any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate. The Response Team consists of the senior pastor, legal counsel, and a representative from each of the following committees: Education Committee, the Youth Council, and the Staff/Parish Committee. This Team shall meet on an as-needed basis to decide what action should be taken to address the issue, if any.