



## **Rehoboth United Methodist Church Safe Sanctuaries Volunteer Covenant**

The congregation of Rehoboth UMC is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, and adults who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. Our goal is to maintain a safe, secure, loving place where all children may grow and where those who care for them may minister their needs in responsible ways.

As caring Christians, we are committed to protect and advocate for all children, youth, and vulnerable persons participating in the life of the church. The Church, at all levels of its organization, is entrusted with the responsibility of providing an emotionally and physically safe, spiritually grounded, healthy environment for all children, youth, adults, and vulnerable persons in which they are protected from abuse. We uphold the idea that to report abuse is to be a witness to the world of the love and justice of God and fully recognize that reporting abuse is a form of ministering to the needs of those crying out for help. Simply, to report abuse can help to stop existing abuse and prevent further abuse.

Additionally, we care for victims of abuse and their families by offering resources that will contribute to healing. Further, we recognize the grace God gives in upholding Christian community; we will look for grace-filled ways of dealing with both the victim and the accused. Therefore, as a Christian community of faith and a United Methodist congregation, we pledge to conduct the ministry of the gospel in ways that assure the safety and spiritual growth of all our children, youth, and vulnerable persons. We will follow reasonable safety measures in the selection and recruitment of workers; we will implement prudent operation procedures in all programs and events; we will educate all of our workers with children, youth and vulnerable person regarding the use of all appropriate policies and methods (including first aid methods and discipline); we will have a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse that conforms to the requirements of state law; and we will be prepared to respond to media inquiries if an incident occurs.

I have read the Rehoboth UMC Safe Sanctuaries Policy. I agree to abide by this policy and to partner with the church in providing a safe environment for our children, youth, and vulnerable persons. Additionally, I agree to participate in Safe Sanctuaries Training on an annual basis.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Safe Sanctuaries Participation Covenant Statement and I agree to observe and abide by the policies set forth above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_