

## PARTICIPATION COVENANT FOR ALL WORKERS WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH, OR VULNERABLE ADULTS

The congregation of Owasso First United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, vulnerable adults and servants 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 relationships with others.

1. No adult who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual, physical, or emotional) should serve to work with children, youth or vulnerable adults 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 serve in some capacity to work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults is encouraged to discuss his/her experience with one of our church's ministers before accepting an assignment. (Being an adult survivor does not disqualify you from serving with children, youth or vulnerable adults.)
3. All adult Servants involved with the children, youth, or vulnerable adults of our church must have been attending church at least three months before beginning a service assignment.
4. Adult servants with children, youth, or vulnerable adults shall observe the two-adult rule at all times so that no adult is ever alone with one child, youth, or vulnerable adult.
5. Adult servants with children, youth, or vulnerable adults shall attend training and educational events provided by the church to keep servants informed of church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.
6. Adult servants shall immediately report to the appropriate church staff member any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.
7. As servants of our church we do not practice physical discipline, but we encourage other means of discipline, such as: time out, reporting to or conferencing with parents, making phone calls to parents to dismiss the one being disciplined from a specific event.

Please answer each of the following questions:

1. As a servant in this congregation, do you agree to observe and abide by all church policies regarding working in ministries with children, youth or vulnerable adults?  Yes  No
2. As a servant in this congregation, do you agree to observe the two-adult rule at all times?  Yes  No
3. As a servant in this congregation, do you agree to abide by the three-month rule before beginning a service assignment?  Yes  No
4. As a servant in this congregation, do you agree to participate in training and education events provided by the church related to your service assignment?  Yes  No
5. As a servant in this congregation, do you agree to promptly report abusive or inappropriate behavior to your supervisor?  Yes  No
6. As a servant in this congregation, if you are a survivor of an abusive situation, do you understand that you are encouraged to discuss with one of our ministers the abuse you suffered?  Yes  No
7. As a servant in this congregation, do you agree to inform a minister of this congregation if you have ever been convicted of child abuse?  Yes  No
8. As a servant in this congregation, do you agree to abide by our no physical discipline policy, and only use forms of discipline as described in our policy?  Yes  No

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

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Signature of Applicant

Date

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Print Full Name