

# FUMC Youth Code of Conduct

We are pleased to have you as a participant in our ministry! Whether you are a member of First United Methodist Church or a guest, Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that we will conduct ourselves in a Christian manner during all activities (i.e., riding in vehicles, at restaurants, retreats, service projects and all church events.) Please read the following with your parents and sign to verify that you understand the policies.

**Electronic Devices:** Use of electronics is a privilege, not a right, and will only be allowed under certain conditions. If use of devices (phones, i-devices, tablets, computers, etc.) gets in the way of relationships, or the spirit of the activity, the youth leaders will confiscate the device for the amount of time appropriate, including the duration of the trip. The device will be returned to the parents after the event with a conference (consisting of the Youth leader, parents, and youth).

**Respect of People: Youth must respect and cooperate with youth leaders and drivers, as well as fellow youth.** Bullying, harassment, and intimidation will not be tolerated. Negative talk, put downs, and disrespect are not allowed. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying can take many forms including slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendo's, demeaning comments, drawing cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, social media posts, or other written, oral, or physical actions.

**Respect of Property:** Youth will respect the facility where the activity takes place, others' property and their own property. Students who are involved in the act of breaking something will be expected to repair or replace the damaged item. Any form of stealing or using other's property without their approval or knowledge will not be tolerated.

**Safety:** Do not leave the group or assigned “buddy” without permission from youth leaders.

Wear safety belts in vehicles. Modifying, alternating or relocation of any safety device will not be acceptable.

**Participation:** We expect our youth to come and participate in the spirit of the event, and have the opportunity to grow in Christ and in relationships with each other and with Christian adults. We will not accept behavior that interferes with the full participation of others’ education or growth. Students are expected to participate willingly in the planned activities. Students are here to develop and explore a growing relationship with Christ. **As such, the youth representatives on our Family Advisory Board have set a standard of 50% required worship attendance in order to be eligible for fun “extracurricular” events.** There will be times that are fun and crazy, and times that are structured learning environments. This is very intentional and will not be disrupted by any student/group of students.

**Character:** We believe in the Christian standard of character, and expect our youth to not engage profanity, put-downs, stealing, arguing, using alcohol or illegal substances, possession of unauthorized drugs, possession of weapons, and dishonesty during any FUMC Youth Group activity or event. (Note: If you need to take a medication, it must be brought in by a parent or guardian and given to the Pastor Denna with a note of permission to dispense.) We will speak in a kind manner, and work out our differences in a peaceful and non-violent manner, involving youth leaders whenever help is needed. Inappropriate displays of affection (kissing, excessive cuddling, or any action sexual in nature) are NOT permitted during any FUMC Youth Group activity or event.

Failure to comply with our Statement of Conduct:

Depending on the severity of the behavior, we will follow a 3-step process. If the severity of the offense dictates it, the church leadership reserves the right to send the person home at the parents' expense.

1) Verbally correct the behavior, along with removal from the situation, removal of a device, separation, etc., as appropriate.

2) If another or the same behavior occurs involving the same person, especially when it is considered to be occurring in a destructive, attention-getting, or belligerent fashion, then a second warning will be given, accompanied by a call to the parents.

3) Should there be a third problem behavior contrary to our Code of Conduct, the Parents or guardians will be called immediately and asked to get their youth. A conference will be scheduled for Pastor Denna, any youth leader involved, the parents, and the youth to resolve the conflict. This conference must take place before the next youth event.

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Parent signature

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Date

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Youth signature

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Date