

First Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC) Youth Group Covenant

Mission:

The Youth Ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma is committed to helping youth have a relationship with Jesus and become more like Jesus. We are here to **REACH** students with the love of Jesus Christ, **CONNECT** them to the community of believers, **EQUIP** them to grow in their faith, **ACT** through service, and **EXALT** God with their lives.

Because of Christ's example to love and respect all, I will create an environment of respect wherever I am.

I will respect other people's belongings and will not touch another's possessions without their permission.

I will respect what others have to say by listening when they are talking and being serious at the appropriate time so as not to distract others.

I will respect what I say and will not use profanity, derogatory comments, and "put downs".

I will respect the privacy of others by keeping information revealed in youth confidential. I will not share information with anyone outside the youth group that could identify, embarrass, or cause potential harm to another youth group participant.

I will respect others by not using my cell phone during youth activities.

I will respect the leaders and the group by participating in all lessons and activities. To the best of my ability, I will commit to being fully present during our gathering times and to making PYC a priority in my life.

I will respect myself and our youth group by being truthful and genuine. I will also be accepting of others and I will take them as they come, knowing that they may come from a different background than me. I will respect the God-given uniqueness in others, including those less fortunate whom I may encounter when participating in the work of our youth group and the church.

I will respect the church property and the property of others, which includes the places we visit, the vehicles in which we travel, restaurants where we eat, and facilities where we stay. This includes cleaning up any messes I might make.

I will respect myself and my youth group, by using only appropriate displays of affection if I am in a relationship. Handholding and goodbye hugs are appropriate; kissing and too close contact is inappropriate.

I will respect the need for safety. I will never go off by myself nor will I ever break curfew when on a youth trip. My leaders need to know where I am at ALL times, and I will refrain from activity that could harm others or myself.

I will respect the safe environment of the youth group by never bringing any weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or vapes when with the youth group. I will also help keep a safe environment by refraining from violence.

I will commit to building one another up, recognizing that we are not in competition, but rather are called here to practice cooperation, mutuality, inclusiveness, and community, seeking in all things to be instruments of God's love, peace, grace, hope, and forgiveness.

Guidelines for Consequences:

When this covenant is breached, consequences will be considered opportunities to disciple and lovingly guide youth toward making better choices. Appropriate consequences will be decided upon by the Minister to Youth, the Pastor, and adult leaders. Covenant breaches fall into three groups: minor, moderate, and major.

Minor violations are those things which, though seemingly minor, either are inconsistent with who we are as a church youth group, or undermine what we are trying to accomplish. Adults will immediately address any minor concerns; it will be expected that speaking to the issue will be enough to resolve the matter without a further need to address the issue. Minor violations will remind and teach our youth what is expected of them during PYC and on church-sponsored trips. Minor violations include things such as the *use of inappropriate language, being late for an activity or disregarding the schedule, not participating in group activities, removing oneself from the group, or disregarding directions from adults.*

Moderate violations are those things which require more than a word of instruction or correction. A moderate concern will require sitting down and dealing with the issue and involving the Minister to Youth or Pastor in the issue. Moderate violations include *repeated violations of the minor rules, disrespect of any of the adults during a youth meeting or on a trip, disrespect of one's surroundings, going off alone or leaving a designated area without permission, or missing a scheduled event.*

Major violations are those things which not only do not belong at an activity or on a trip, but which also fundamentally undermine the activity and/or trip. These violations will result in the person's parents or legal guardians being called and being involved in the decision concerning the consequences. A major violation may result in someone being sent home at the parent's expense and possibly losing the privilege of participating in youth events for a specified length of time. Major violations include *the use of alcohol, tobacco, vapes, inhalants, illegal drugs, and/or weapons, sneaking out, any illegal activity such as shoplifting or vandalism, physical fighting, or sexual activity of any kind.*

As a member of First Presbyterian's youth group, I acknowledge my need for meaningful relationships with other youth. I also know that this youth group and church exist to help me deepen my relationship with God, other Christians, and all of the people that God has put in my life in order to be a better disciple for Christ. I must always try to keep God's priorities before my own. I commit myself to this covenant and any consequences for breaking the covenant.

Youth Signature _____ **Date** _____

As a parent or guardian of this youth, I expect my child to behave in this manner and understand that there will be consequences to any inappropriate behavior. I have read and understand these guidelines.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____