



Peace United Church of Christ

A safe and inclusive church living God's radical message

Adult Volunteer Guidelines

Background Checks: All adult volunteers must complete and submit a background check form. All background check forms must be cleared before volunteers are able to work with our youth.

Safe #'s: An volunteer should strive to never be alone with only one youth. Please ensure two adults are present, or to have one adult with two or more youth. This extends to driving situations. If you are in the situation of driving a youth by yourself, please make sure to have written or verbal parental permission and have communicated the situation to a pastor. Unfortunately accusations do happen and it's best to have safety in numbers and witnesses.

Driving: Volunteers should be 25 years of age to drive youth to and from church events. Volunteers should have written or verbal parental consent in order to transport youth.

Relationships: There is absolutely no dating or romantic relationships between adult volunteers and youth.

Safe Space: All youth church events should be scheduled by the pastor or approved by the pastor. Church events should take place in public places, or in spaces with multiple adult volunteers. All Faith Formation classrooms have windows in the doors. Doors may be closed, but windows may never be covered.

Physical Touch: Physical touch between volunteers and youth should be minimal and appropriate. Hugs with permission are okay, side hugs are better. Back-rubs, tickling, & rough-housing between volunteers and youth are inappropriate.

Social Media: Volunteers should not initiate contact with youth via social media. Youth are welcome to send requests to adults on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc) and volunteers can decide if they want to accept the request. You may deny the request for your own privacy, create separate social media accounts to be friends with youth or accept youth on your regular accounts, providing that **all their social media** material is appropriate for youth access. Refrain from posting photos of youth on personal social media sites. The pastors have signed permission from parents/guardians for posting photos on sites connected to Peace UCC.

Language & Apparel: Volunteers should use appropriate language (no cussing) and be dressed appropriately around youth at all times. (Ex: avoid clothing and accessories that display violence, lewd/obscene messages, sexually suggestive phrases, or advertisements or symbols of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs).

Emergency Contact: Signed emergency contact forms are required for all youth participating in church events.

Contact & Support: At Peace we encourage and value healthy relationships between adult volunteers and youth. Great ways for adults to check-in with youth are for words of encouragement, get-well-soon, etc. Or if connected via social media, an appropriate way to show care and support is to comment or respond on a youth's status update. Friendship is reserved for relationships between peers, and your role with the youth is that of mentor and role model.

Mandatory reporting: For the protection of adults and youth, all volunteers will share with a pastor any disclosed abuse, on-going struggles, or hardships. Pastors are mandated reporters and are required by law to report any abuse or neglect. Private communications (texting, private e-mails or social media messages) should be kept to a minimum. Remember, safe #'s (2 or more adults present) extends to modes of communication and not just to physical space.

Limits of Service: All volunteer positions are temporary and placement will be the decision of the pastors, or staff and lay leaders in charge of the ministry area, in consultation with pastors. If more volunteers are needed in another class or area, you may be asked to be flexible in switching. The pastors have authority to discontinue the service of any adult volunteer with valid reasoning.

If any parent, volunteer, or youth has any questions or concerns, please contact the pastors for clarification.

X _____
Signature

X _____
Printed Name

X _____
Date