

Family Life Ministries

"He tends His flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart, and He gently leads those that have young." Isaiah 40:11

Our vision at The Woodlands United Methodist Church is to create the most innovative and imaginative family ministries that will bring God's love to the next generation. Our mission is to partner with families to reach and teach everyone in such a way that they have the greatest opportunity to become fully developing followers of Jesus Christ!

Principles Guiding Our Actions:

Members of TWUMC Family Life Ministry teams are:

Christian witnesses to others of the world around us,
ready to share Christ and His message.

Servants with our hands and gifts to the children and families,
ready to share, give, and assist.

Bridges of understanding between Christ and His church,
ready to listen, empathize, and learn.

TWUMC Family Life Ministries Commitment Statement:

I realize that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality and ministry we share together. As a member of this team, I agree to:

Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward everyone and my teammates.

Respect my team leader[s] and his or her decisions.

Refrain from gossip.

Refrain from complaining. Instead of whining and complaining, I will be creative and supportive.

Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. I will make every effort to interact with all members of the team.

To be a servant and representative of Christ and His church.

To share my faith in an appropriate manner.

Follow the Methodist tradition found in the *Discipline* of our church, where we are described as persons "not only of sound judgement, but truly devoted to God," who are willing to help the children and families in the congregation "to grow in the knowledge and love of God."

Abstain from any illegal activities included but not limited to underage consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of tobacco or illegal drugs.

Strive daily to be a Christian role model not only to the families of TWUMC but also to my peers and in extracurricular and community activities. This includes our clothing, action and language choices everywhere not just at church.

Especially being mindful of photos, postings, music and appropriate material on websites that reflect on me, Christ and this team. I agree to provide my team leader (s) with information so that they have open and full access to any website where I may have postings: ie MySpace, Facebook etc...

Signed _____

Date _____

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Covenant of Christian Service

The service of teaching is one of the most important contributions made by world Methodism to Christ's holy Church. In the *General Rules of 1743*, John Wesley described the Methodist societies as companies of men and women who, "Having the form, and seeking the power of godliness," came together in order to pray, to receive the word of exhortation, and "to watch over one another in love that they may help each other work out their salvation." To this end, the societies were divided into classes and each was appointed a teacher "to advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require."

Family Life Ministry today continues this tradition. In the founding *Discipline* of our church, we are described as persons "not only of sound judgement, but truly devoted to God," who are willing to help the children and families in the congregation "to grow in the knowledge and love of God."

By accepting your position on the Family Life service team of The Woodlands United Methodist Church you are helping others to fulfill the general rule of discipleship: to witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow His teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. You are accountable for yourself, other members of this team and our families discipleship, not by judging them, but by watching over them and teaching them in love.

All Christians are to live in expectancy: faithful in service of God and their neighbor; faithful in waiting for the fulfillment of God's universal love, justice, and peace on earth as in heaven. Pending this time of fulfillment, the handing on of these teachings is entrusted to leaders who are gifted and called by God to be in service through Family Life. For you to lead and serve effectively, you must embody the teachings of Jesus in servant leadership. Through this ministry the church is faithfully engaged in the growing of Christian disciples and vitally involved in the mission of God in the world!

By signing this covenant, we are all joining together as one team, committed to hold each other and our ministries up through daily prayer; to understand our responsibilities as leaders and role models and help each other to live accordingly; to work diligently each day to view each other, the children and families we serve, and the world around us through Jesus' eyes and seek to ask, "What would Jesus do?"

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TWUMC Family Life Ministries Covenant Agreement:

By accepting your position on the Family Life Ministry teams of The Woodlands United Methodist Church you are helping others to fulfill the general rule of discipleship: to be a witness for Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow His teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. You are accountable for yourself, other members of this team and our children's discipleship, not by judging them, but by watching over them and teaching them in love.

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