

YOUTH GROUP COVENANT

ORANGE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Revised 8/1/2019*)

MISSION:

The Youth Ministry of the Orange Park United Methodist Church is committed to help 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.

As a member of our youth group, I acknowledge my need for meaningful relationships with other youth. I also know that this youth group and church exists to help me deepen my relationship with God, other Christians, and all of the people that God has placed in my life; to be a better disciple for Christ. I must always keep God's priorities before my own. Because of these things, I commit to the following: Christ gave us an example of respect and love for all, because of His example I will create an environment of respect wherever I am to keep myself and others safe.

- I will respect other people's stuff. I will not go through or touch another's possessions without first asking for their permission.
- I will respect the church building because it belongs to all of us. I will clean up messes, respect the property of others and treat this place as I would treat my own home.
- I will respect what others have to say by listening when they are talking. I will allow others to speak their ideas and not distract them or take away from their ideas by talking while they are talking. I will always seek to resolve differences of opinion face to face in accordance with Matthew 18 and to find unity in the teachings of Jesus.
- I will respect others with my words. I will not use abusive words, and I will not be overly critical, whether in spoken or written form; in person or on social media or any other forum regarding my peers and leadership within our church family.
- I will not gossip about our youth group or others. Our youth group's definition of gossip is saying anything true or false, or rumor that causes others to lower their opinion of the person being talked about. We will only speak positive and encouraging things about others.
- I will respect the group and put my cell phone away and on silent when the youth activities begin because I know that they can distract me and others from learning more about God.
- I will respect others in the way that I dress. I understand that dressing modestly is what is expected of me.
- I will respect myself and my youth group, by using only appropriate displays of affection if I am in a relationship or with my friends. There must always be space between myself and the person that I am dating or friends with. Hand holding and goodbye hugs are appropriate. Kissing, lying on, or continuous close contact is not appropriate.

- I will respect the safe environment of the youth group by promising that I will never bring any weapons, alcohol, knives, fireworks, or drugs (vape, cigarettes, juul, chewing tobacco, marijuana, other illegal drugs, or prescription medication not prescribed to you) with me to any youth group activity or trip. I will also help to keep a safe environment by not being violent. I understand that if I bring any of these items to a church event, trip or activity, they will be confiscated and I will be sent home. I also understand it will be my financial responsibility to go home if on a trip out of town.
- I will respect the leaders and the youth group by participating in all lessons, activities and games as it is very important and is expected of me. I am committed to attend youth functions that I am able and I will try to arrive on time. I will not leave before the lesson, activity, game or worship is over; wander away from any of these; or walk out of an activity until it is over. This, I understand, is for my own protection as well as for the consideration of others.
- I will respect myself and our youth group by being truthful. 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 because this is what Jesus has asked of us. I know that God created us as unique individuals, and I will respect that uniqueness in others.
- I will respect those less fortunate than us by participating in the mission work of our youth group and the church.
- Because I am a youth, I understand that I am not responsible for enforcing the rules. I understand that is the responsibility of all of the adults present, not me. I understand it is my job to be an example to others.
- I will respect my peers and the adult leadership by committing myself to this covenant and understand that my participation in all children and youth activities is dependent upon having this document signed and on file prior to the commencement of the lesson, activity, game or worship activity.
- Furthermore, I understand that if I have refused to previously sign this covenant, its predecessor or successor that I will be asked to make remedy or apology of any infractions contained within prior to the commencement of the lesson, activity, game or worship activity. If a child or youth is unwilling to sign the covenant, then the parent will be ineligible to share in the children and youth ministries of the church.

As an important part of Orange Park Youth Group, I commit myself to this covenant. I understand that there will be consequences to any inappropriate behavior. Consequences may include being required to “sit out” from an activity or trip, staying after to talk about my behavior, my parent/guardian being called to come and pick me up if my inappropriate behavior continues and as a last resort, I could lose my privileges of coming to youth events for a time.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

As the Parent/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 understand and agree to the consequences listed above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Revised by Holly Christy, Director of Youth Ministries; Mark Stallings, Director of Music Ministries; and Christina Waters, Director of Children’s Ministries August 1, 2019.