First Church
First United Methodist Church of Seattle

Safe Church Policy for Children and Youth

Updated 2026

I. Introduction:

Jesus plainly taught that children were to be included and provided for within the community of faith (Luke 18:15-17, Matthew 18:5-6). Today, the church may be the only place where some children find the unconditional love and care they so desperately need to grow, thrive, and become faithful people. As Christians, we must take our responsibilities to our children very seriously, always attending to their spiritual growth and nurture. If we neglect to take adequate precautions against abuse in our churches, we fail in our responsibilities to these vulnerable members of our communities.

With *The Book of Discipline*, we affirm that our children and youth are full human beings in their own right and full participants in the life of the church and in the realm of God, but because they are particularly vulnerable, they are our sacred trust to whom we have special responsibility. The Church, in its call to offer protection and hospitality to all, must provide a safe environment for children and youth, believing that "children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse" of any kind (¶ 162.C).

When allegations of child abuse are made, whether they are eventually proven true or false, everyone in the church suffers. The costs of litigation, regardless of outcome, are astronomical – financially, emotionally, and spiritually. Child abuse prevention and ministry protection policies and procedures are therefore essential not only for the protection and safety of children and youth, but for the volunteer and employed workers with those children and youth and the congregation as a whole.

Therefore, as a covenanted Christian community, it is the purpose of First Church (First United Methodist Church of Seattle) to conduct all children/youth-related events in ways that promote the safety and spiritual growth of all children/youth involved, as well as the adult workers with children/youth who participate in these events. The following policies are designed to promote that safety and spiritual growth, and to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the needs of all in our community.

II. Scope:

This policy and its provisions shall apply to all paid and unpaid staff and volunteers, whether lay or clergy, who have any contact with children/youth who participate in any church activities or events. For the purposes of this document,

"children" refers to those from birth to fifth grade and "youth" refers to those from sixth to twelfth grade. During the summer months, the grade level of the child/youth will be defined as the grade that s/he will be entering in the upcoming school year.

III. Procedures for Updating and Revising This Policy:

1. Updating/Revising: The Church Council of First Church shall have the authority to revise and update these policies on an annual basis or at the request of any pastoral staff (clergy) or ministry staff, in consultation with pastoral staff.

2. Modification of Policies: This policy may be modified or withdrawn by First Church's Administrative Council at any time. These policies are not intended to create an implied or express contract with any person. They are not intended to create a legally enforceable or binding promise or representation.

3. Waiver of Policies: Church policies may be waived occasionally for exceptional circumstances. The goal of First Church is to promote safety while maintaining a practical flexibility in children's and youth ministry. Waiving policies will only be authorized by pastoral staff (clergy) in consultation with the age-level staff person or volunteer in charge of a particular event.

IV. A Higher Standard:

As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we must strive to be worthy of a very high standard of trust. For this reason, every worker at First Church must avoid even the appearance of inappropriate behavior. All adult workers with children/youth, both paid and volunteer, must diligently avoid any contact that appears wrong to a reasonable observer, whether or not misconduct actually takes place. As such, the following policies will be followed:

1. General Safety Requirements:

A. Parents shall be given advance notice and full information regarding any church-related activities or meetings for their children/youth, including the names of chaperones, if requested.
B. First Church will be insured for abuse, risk, and facility hazards.
C. Any activity that has an elevated risk factor requires the presence of an experienced and/or certified guide or instructor. (For example, swimming requires a certified lifeguard.) Participation in high-risk activities shall be properly insured with a certificate of liability. If the activity is contracted to an outside party, then the contractor shall be properly insured with a certificate of liability insurance.

D. If any special equipment is used that requires special instruction, the instructions for its use will be posted and followed. Participants will be instructed verbally on the proper use of such equipment.
E. Medical emergency forms will be required from all children/youth participating in church events. [For regular church events – which include Sunday School and regular fellowship events taking place on church property, a form may be kept on file for up to one year. For special overnight events, or those requiring travel away from church property, permission forms specific to the event will be required. See Appendix E for event permission form.] These forms will accompany the event coordinator and shall include a waiver of liability. In the case of an accident that needs medical attention, the person who is responsible for the event or meeting will use all means possible to contact the parent, guardian, or emergency contact while ensuring that the child/youth involved receives proper care. A sample medical emergency form is attached as Appendix D.
F. There shall be an up-to-date first aid kit on the premises at all church events, including disposable vinyl gloves, assorted gauze and bandages, antiseptic/alcohol wipes, adhesive tape, antibiotic ointment, cold compress, soft splints, scissors, and a CPR barrier, and general instructions for use.
G. Any overnight event shall have at least one staff-person or volunteer certified in First Aid and child/youth CPR who can administer minor first aid, dispense medications as needed, determine when additional medical attention is necessary, and report all incidents to the senior pastor. For overnight events where minors are present, medication (including supplements) will be given to the first aid staff/volunteer at the beginning of the event and distributed as appropriate by said staff/volunteer. A log of all medications dispensed and treatments administered will also be kept. To facilitate these requirements, First Church will arrange for First Aid/CPR training for volunteers at least every two years.
H. All participants in a church-related event will consistently remain in groups of three or more. All minors will have an adult leader present at all times.
I. Before being pictured or mentioned in any church public relations media (print or electronic), each minor shall have a media release form on file indicating parental/guardian permission to include representations of said child in First Church media. A sample form is included as Appendix F. This policy also applies to the church livestream on Sunday mornings. For the lighting of the community candle and children and youth moments, or other places where children and youth are involved in the worship service, the focus of the camera should be on the adult speaker or a slide (unless all children and

youth participating have media release forms granting permission to be on the livestream) and not the children and youth.

2. Driving Regulations:

A. Only those who have successfully passed a Washington State Patrol (WSP) background check will drive others to/from church-related events. Only those 23 years and older may drive passengers to/from church-related events or during event business.

B. All drivers for church-related events shall possess a valid driver's license and appropriate insurance.

C. If an adult other than a parent/guardian provides transportation to/from a church event/meeting for children/youth, the parent/guardian must provide written permission to the driving chaperone in the event permission form (appendix E).

D. Youth (under 18) are discouraged from driving themselves to church-related events. If they must drive themselves, keys for the related automobile may be held by an adult event leader during the event.

E. No child/youth will be allowed to ride in a vehicle without a seatbelt and/or required car/booster seat. Transportation shall only be provided to the number of people who can sit safely and comfortably in each vehicle, with luggage safely stowed and first aid available.

3. Overnight Events:

A. Males and females may not sleep in the same room unless there is no other option as a result of shortages of chaperones or because of the nature of the space. If they are in the same room and there is a divider available, it shall be used to separate the genders. If there is no divider available, they shall be at least six feet apart from each other.

B. There shall be at least one adult of the same gender in the sleeping quarters; two adults are preferred for each. [Refer to adult to children/youth ratios in section V.1.I. below.]

a. If housing for an overnight event is hotel-style in multiple rooms, adults will not share hotel-style rooms with minors, but will be housed in rooms between minor rooms and will take turns monitoring hallways during sleeping hours.

C. At overnight events, a minimum of eight consecutive hours of sleep shall be scheduled per night. These hours will begin with lights out and quiet time, and will end at least one half hour before any scheduled morning activity.

4. Policy Supervisor:

A. First Church shall have a designated Policy Supervisor, laity or clergy, paid or volunteer, whose job it is to see that State Patrol background clearances are made for all volunteers. [SPRC is responsible for checking references and backgrounds for all paid staff.] This person will be responsible for developing,

overseeing, and reviewing the training of all staff and volunteers, which may include the following:

a. appropriate boundary guidelines
b. types of abuse, the relationship between imbalances of power and abuse
c. causes and indicators of abuse
d. reporting procedures
e. understanding the victim and the abuser
f. working with abuse victims
g. conference children/youth event policies
h. media reporting policies

B. The Policy Supervisor shall be required to be a Conference Designated Safety Officer (DSO) and trained accordingly.
C. The Policy Supervisor will serve as the resource person on these issues, will receive reports of guideline misuse or reports of abuse, and will see that all persons who need to know of abuses are informed.
D. The Policy Supervisor will carefully document all aspects of abuse incidents on appropriate forms, which shall immediately be forwarded to the senior pastor, District Superintendent, and Conference Office, and to any other group who needs to know.
E. If abuse is reported in a non-church-related setting, the Policy Supervisor shall consult with event leaders or other oversight staff and make a determination of who shall be informed, including but not limited to Child Protective Services, law enforcement, etc. In the case of a minor – if the parents/guardians are not the abusers – parents/guardians will be informed, as well.

5. Policies for Screening Paid and Volunteer Staff:

A. First Church will follow a six-month hospitality policy, not allowing new members/constituents to engage in direct ministry with children/youth until they have been an active part of the First Church community for a minimum of six months (attending worship at least twice/month) and have had a screening interview with a pastor or staff-person designated by a pastor.
B. All adults who desire to work directly with children/youth will be provided with a copy of Safe Church Policies and will be required to sign the related Safe Church Covenant (see Appendix A).
C. All adults who work in a role that places them in direct contact with children/youth, on either a volunteer or paid basis, shall complete a Washington State Patrol Background check, which will be filed at the Conference Office.

D. Prior to the beginning of each school year, the Policy Supervisor shall ensure that checks are completed and up-to-date for every adult who is involved in programs with children/youth and will check King County public records for registered sex offenders to ensure that potential volunteers are not listed.
E. A criminal conviction for a sexual offense disqualifies an applicant from working with children/youth. Other automatic disqualifiers include convictions for incest, rape, assaults involving minors, murder, kidnapping, child pornography, domestic violence, and other physical abuse. These persons will be encouraged to pursue involvement in ministries that do not involve direct contact with children/youth.
F. Volunteers who have been abused as children should have a discussion with a First Church pastor about their ability to work with children and to know appropriate boundaries before they will be allowed to work with children/youth.

6. Nursery Standards

A. During nursery hours (10:30-12:00) or whenever infants/children are present, only nursery staff, other staff as needed, and/or approved adult volunteers are allowed in the nursery. Parents/guardians may be present to pick up and drop off children or for longer periods as needed and approved by nursery staff/volunteers.

V. Code of Behavior:

1. Rules of General Supervision for Adults Working with Children/Youth:

A. The behavior of adults working with children/youth must reflect the highest standards of Christian maturity, foster trust at all times, and be above reproach. Adults engaged in church-related events or activities with children/youth present must never engage in sexually suggestive behavior or inappropriate touching.
B. Any sexual or sexually suggestive behavior by an adult toward any fellow worker or event participant at a church event where an imbalance of power exists between the acting adult and the other person constitutes an abuse of power and will not be tolerated. Such abuses of power will require the acting adult to be removed from her/his position immediately. Consent is not a defense to an abuse of power.
C. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated at any time. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwanted sexual advance, physical or verbal demand, or sexually suggestive behavior which is perceived as demeaning, intimidating, or coercive. Prohibited behavior includes unsolicited and unwelcome contact that has sexual or coercive overtones, including but not limited to:

a. Sexually suggestive or coercive communication of any kind, such as obscene letters, notes, or invitations; sexually suggestive comments, threats, slurs, or epithets; jokes about gender-specific traits or sexual orientation; or sexual propositions.
b. Any bullying or intimidating act, whether it is physical contact such as intentional touching, pinching, brushing against another's body, impeding or blocking movement, assault, or coercing sexual intercourse; visual contact such as leering or staring at another's body, sexually suggestive gesturing, displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, posters, or magazines; or verbal contact such as threats or name-calling; or any unwanted gesture.

D. The following guidelines for touching are to be carefully followed by anyone working with children/youth:
    a. Touching should always be initiated by the child/youth. The adult should respond to the child/youth's need for comfort and encouragement and not touch the child/youth based on her/his own emotional needs.
    b. Appropriate touching by an adult may include holding hands as part of a group activity, touching only the head or shoulders of a child/youth, or a side-hug of the shoulders.
    c. Touching between an adult and a child/youth shall only occur in the presence of other adults.
    d. A child/youth's preference not to be touched will be respected by other children/youth and adults.
E. Any time an adult thinks that her/his own or another adult's behavior toward a child/youth, either physical or verbal, may have been perceived as inappropriate, s/he shall report the behavior to the Safe Church Policy Supervisor.
F. All adults shall avoid being alone, one-on-one, with children/youth unless express parental/guardian permission has been given in writing. Adult interaction with children/youth shall be conducted within the sight/supervision of at least one other non-related adult. In cases where it is impossible to avoid direct, one-on-one interactions, the following guidelines shall be observed:
    a. If an adult is alone with children/youth, at least two children/youth shall be present.
    b. If interactions are being conducted in a classroom and there is only one adult available, there shall be a roamer on the premises, and the classroom door shall remain open [in addition to windows in classrooms being unobstructed].

    c. When private consultation is needed between a child/youth and an adult, another adult shall be informed of the activity and of the location the activity is taking place. The consultation shall take place in a space within sight of others but not necessarily within hearing range. Counseling should always be done with an open door.

G. The parent/guardian(s) should be the primary contact in digital communications unless they otherwise specify. Digital communications with youth can take place when the youth is active in the church and their parents/guardians are not, or, if their parent/guardian has given permission for the youth to directly communicate digitally with pastoral and/or ministry staff. Efforts should be made to be in contact with youth's parents/guardians who may not be active in the church. In email and text communication with youth, there should be two adults from First Church staff included in the thread of communication, whether by email or SMS text. The responsibility of adhering to this is on the adults and not the youth; if a youth sends an email or text to only one adult staff, the adult in their response should include a second adult in the communication thread, and give a reminder to the youth about the policy.
    a. First Church Children and Youth Volunteers cannot follow children and youth on social media.

H. Adults shall respect the privacy of children/youth when changing clothing or showering to the extent safety allows. Adults will never change clothing or shower in front of children/youth.

I. Children/youth shall be supervised at all times by at least two non-related adults who are at least 18 years old and at least five years older than the oldest child/youth who is attending the event as a participant.
    a. If two adults cannot be present at all times, at least one roamer must be present to check in on the group occasionally.
    b. If there are only two adults present and it is not possible for both of them to be at least five years older than the oldest child/youth, then one adult at least 18 years old but less than five years older than the oldest child/youth may act as a helper to a non-related adult at least five years older than the oldest child/youth.
    c. No volunteers under the age of 18 will be permitted to supervise children/youth unless they are "helpers" in a situation where two non-related adults at least five years older than the oldest child/youth are already present.

J. In addition to the two-adult rule of section H. above, there shall be at least 1 adult present for every 3 infants (birth to 12 months); there shall be at least 1 adult present for every 4 toddlers (12 to 36 months); there shall be at least 1

adult present for every 5 children (3 years to 5th grade); there shall be at least 1 adult present for every 6 junior high youth (6th to 8th grade); there shall be at least 1 adult present for every 8 senior high youth (9th to 12th grade).

K. Adults shall never tell a child/youth that a conversation will be kept strictly confidential, as adults will be required to report any instance of abuse that a child/youth reports to the adult.
L. There will be absolutely no consumption of alcohol or use of illegal drugs at or during any church-related activity or event with children/youth. Any consumption of alcohol or use of illicit or illegal drugs will lead to immediate suspension of position and removal from the event or activity.
M. Possession of firearms at church-related events with children/youth is prohibited.
N. All adults working with children/youth shall abide by all laws and regulations applicable to the location of the event or activity.

2. Rules of Interaction between Children/Youth:

A. Prior to any overnight or longer activity or event, children/youth shall be required to sign a covenant defining appropriate behavior. Children/youth who do not abide by the signed covenant will not be permitted to remain at the event or activity in question. Such a covenant may include:
    a. Agreement to participate fully in and give best efforts to the ministry;
    b. Agreement to respect other participants and treat others as they wish to be treated;
    c. Agreement to abide by policies set forth by adult leaders, which may include but not be limited to dress code, appropriate use of language, and appropriate demonstrations of affection and encouragement.
B. No bullying, harassment, or abuse between children/youth will be tolerated. Should such activity be suspected, the adult in charge will be notified immediately, and the acting child/youth will be removed from the situation. As soon as possible, the parents/guardians of both children/youth and the Policy Supervisor will be notified. Proper documentation of the incident will be kept by the Policy Supervisor. Further notifications of authorities will be made as warranted.

VI. Responses to Policy Infractions at Church-Related Activities or Events:

1. Responding to Behaviors that Hinder the First Church Mission:

In addition to the behaviors described above, no behavior will be tolerated which may hinder the mission and purpose of First Church or a First Church ministry. Examples of such behavior may include but not be limited to adult volunteers/workers who continually undermine program objectives, event planners who neglect training or

health/safety concerns, etc. When serious concerns arise, the following steps may be taken:

A. A concerned adult will talk directly with the person whose behavior is considered detrimental. If the person raising the concern is unwilling or unable to talk directly with the person in question or if an initial conversation is unproductive, a clergy or staff-person shall meet with the two individuals to seek resolution. If a mutually agreed-upon resolution is not possible, then the clergy or staff-person involved shall have the authority to prescribe a resolution.
B. Anonymous complaints or evaluations shall be considered unverifiable and will have no foundation for being officially addressed.
C. A person whose behavior hinders the mission and goals of the ministry or whose negative behavior is repetitive may be removed from her/his position by the person or group to whom s/he is accountable.
D. First Church has the obligation to inform the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of all persons whose behavior they deem to be inappropriate for working with children/youth. The Conference shall maintain a list of these persons in conjunction with background check forms. The church or Conference is under no obligation to report the reason for placement on this list with any other than the accused.

2. **Responding to Incidents Involving Physical Accidents:**

A. Any person witnessing a physical accident involving a child/youth shall give a report to the first aid staff or leader at the event/activity. That staff/leader shall in turn complete an Accident Report Form (Appendix B), report the incident to the senior pastor and other key church leaders, and notify the parents of the incident as deemed necessary by the staff/leader.
B. The accident report form shall be forwarded to the Safe Church Policy Supervisor and kept in a log.
C. The event coordinator/leader shall make contacts as needed with the senior pastor, the Conference Office, and the church insurance company. This coordinator, in consultation with the senior pastor, shall also determine whether there is need for an investigation or additional follow-up.

3. Responding to Allegations of Abuse:

A. All reports of abuse shall be treated with utmost seriousness and confidentiality.
B. The highest priority in a suspected abuse situation shall be the safety of the alleged victim. In no case shall the accused be confronted without the safety of the alleged victim being secured.
C. The person receiving a report of abuse shall immediately share the information with the event coordinator/leader on site, unless the event

coordinator/leader is the suspect in question; then the report should be made to the Policy Supervisor or the Senior Pastor; or if neither is available, the report shall be made to law enforcement authorities. The Policy Supervisor is responsible for completing an Abuse Incident Report Form (Appendix C) and for reporting the incident to the senior pastor and/or to authorities as warranted.

D. The person who first receives a report of abuse, together with the Policy Supervisor, shall report the incident to the Child Protective Services or the appropriate law enforcement agency as warranted.
E. The Policy Supervisor will notify the parents of the alleged victim if and when it is clearly safe to do so.
F. Any volunteer or hired staff person accused of abuse shall immediately be relieved of duties related to this or any other church event involving children/youth and be isolated from further contact with participants, guests, and others who may be negatively influenced by the individual's presence until a review process of the incident has been completed. The accused individual may not return to any leadership duties with children/youth until and unless the Policy Supervisor has completed the incident review and determined that it is safe for the accused individual to return to her/his duties, whether or not the incident occurred during a church-related event.
G. If the incident in question is investigated by civil authorities, the investigation will be monitored by the Policy Supervisor and senior pastor until the investigation is complete. All investigating will be the responsibility of the civil authorities.
H. If there is no civil investigation, or after completion of a civil investigation, the Policy Supervisor and/or the senior pastor may jointly review the incident to determine whether further action is needed.
I. The Policy Supervisor is responsible for contacting the accused and informing the accused of the nature of this process. During any meetings with the accused, a mutually agreed-upon witness, who may be the senior pastor or district superintendent, shall be present.
J. If it is determined that an accused volunteer/worker has committed an act of abuse, a covenant will be established with the offender to regulate her/his behavior at all levels of involvement with the church. The covenant shall include both an agreed-upon record of what offending actions were committed and agreed-upon actions to be taken in the future to insure than no further offenses will be committed.
K. All documentation related to an alleged incident of abuse shall be confidentially filed in the Policy Supervisor's locked files.

L. First Church has the obligation to inform the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of all persons whose behavior they deem to be inappropriate for working with children/youth, including those who have abused children/youth. The Conference shall maintain a list of these persons in conjunction with background check forms. The church or Conference is under no obligation to report the reason for placement on this list with any other than the accused.

M. First Church's obligations to respond to allegations of abuse go beyond the State's requirements. As Christians, we must also be prepared to respond to others in the following ways:
    a. In faithful response to the alleged victim, the allegations must be taken very seriously. The alleged victim's privacy must be respected, sympathetic concern must be provided, blame must not be placed on the alleged victim, and there must be absolutely no implication that the alleged victim was in any way responsible for causing the incident.
    b. In faithful response to the Annual Conference, the district superintendent and the bishop will be notified as soon as allegations are received. The district superintendent and the bishop will be kept apprised of the congregation's actions. First Church will notify the Conference insurance agent of all allegations.
    c. In faithful response to the media, one person will be designated as a spokesperson and will deliver only well-thought-out, previously written statements to the media.
    d. In faithful response to the accused, the person will be reassured of her/his membership in the Body of Christ and status as a beloved person of sacred worth. The accused will be removed from any position with children/youth until allegations are fully investigated and resolved.

4. Responding to Illegal Behavior:

Any volunteer or hired staff person accused of felonious activity shall be immediately relieved of all duties related to this or any other church-sponsored activity/event and shall be isolated from further contact with participants, guests, and others who may be negatively influenced by the individual's presence until a review process has been completed. Proper authorities will be contacted by the Policy Supervisor and/or the senior pastor. The accused will not be reinstated in any position of church leadership until an investigation and/or review has been completed.

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First United Methodist Church of Seattle

Safe Church Covenant (Appendix A)

As a part of a Christian community of faith and a United Methodist congregation, I pledge to conduct the ministry of the gospel in ways that assure the safety and spiritual growth of all of our children/youth and the adult workers who interact with them, whether paid or unpaid. I will follow the reasonable safety measures laid out in the First Church Safe Church Policy, which I have read and understand. I will follow procedures for selection and recruitment of workers/volunteers, implement prudent operational procedures in all programs and events, participate in continuing education regarding the use of all appropriate policies and methods, and follow outlined procedures for reporting suspected incidents of abuse. I understand that I am held to the highest standard of conduct in my work with children/youth at First Church, and may be removed from such work with children/youth if I fail to abide by these policies.

Signature Date

_____

Printed Name

_____

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Accident Report Form (Appendix B)

Please print all information legibly.

Date of accident: _____ Time of accident: _____

Name of child/youth injured: _____ Age: _____

Location/address of incident: _____

_____

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Name of person(s) who witnessed the accident:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Describe the accident in as much detail as possible:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Describe actions taken by adult leader(s):

_____

_____

Name of Accident Reporter: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Accident Reporter: _____

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Abuse Incident Report Form (Appendix C)

Name of worker observing or receiving disclosure of abuse: _____

Alleged victim's name: _____ Age: _____

Date of initial conversation with/report from alleged victim: _____

Location of initial conversation with/report from alleged victim: _____

Alleged victim's statement (detailed summary): _____

_____

_____

_____

Name of person accused of abuse: _____

Relationship of accused to alleged victim: _____

Date/time of report to Policy Supervisor and/or senior pastor: _____

Summary of report: _____

_____

_____

_____

Was alleged victim's parent/guardian notified? _____ If yes, date/time: _____

Summary of conversation: _____

_____

Were local civil authorities notified? _____ If yes, date/time: _____

Name of civil authority contacted: _____

Summary of conversation: _____

_____

_____

Was law enforcement notified? _____ If yes, date/time: _____

Name of officer contacted: _____

Summary of conversation: _____

_____

_____

Other contacts:

Name: _____ Date/time: _____

Summary of conversation: _____

_____

_____

Name of person submitting report: _____

Signature of person submitting report: _____

Date/time report submitted: _____

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Medical Emergency and Release Form (Appendix D)

Child/Youth Information:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ M. I. _____

Date of Birth: _____ Home Phone: _____Email:_____

Please note any ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS for the child/youth
(i.e. hearing aid, glasses, reading problems, etc.):

_____

Allergies (food, drug, and environmental):

_____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____Relationship:_____

Address: _____City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email:_____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____Relationship:_____

Address: _____City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email:_____

Emergency Contact Information:

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____ Phone #2: _____

Insurance Information:

Company: _____ Policy Holder:_____

ID #: _____Phone: _____

I give my permission for First United Methodist church to seek any and all emergency health care determined necessary for my child/youth, allowing that reasonable attempts to contact me or the above named emergency contact have been made. I hereby release the church, its personnel, and related volunteers from any financial responsibility for such health care, and I agree to either have appropriate health insurance, or in its absence, to pay the costs of medical services that may be incurred on my child/youth's behalf. I agree to the release of any records necessary for insurance purposes.

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature

_____

Printed Name

_____

Date

First Church
First United Methodist Church of Seattle

One-Time Event Permission Form (Appendix E)

I, _____, the undersigned parent/guardian of

_____, do hereby give permission for my child(ren)/youth to participate in the SAMPLE EVENT sponsored by First Church children/youth ministries on SAMPLE DATE at SAMPLE TIME. I understand that this event will take place at SAMPLE LOCATION, and I give my child(ren)/youth permission to ride to and from the event in a car with an appropriate number of safety restraints driven by an adult whose driving record has been approved by First Church.

I understand that, in the case of overnight events, all reasonable measures will be taken to properly separate and supervise children/youth of different genders for sleeping.

I understand that all child(ren)/youth and adult volunteers participating in the above named event will be responsible for conducting themselves in a fashion appropriate to a First Church event, and that all participants will be governed by the First Church Safe Church Policy for Children and Youth. I understand that should my child(ren)/youth not abide by said policies, s/he/they will be sent home immediately at my expense.

I have completed and signed a First Church emergency medical release form and understand that my child(ren)/youth will be treated for any medical emergencies as indicated on that form, which will be carried by adult volunteers throughout the event.

My child may ride in a car driven by:

☐ Any qualified and approved driver.

☐ Only the driver(s) listed here: _____.

_____ _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

_____ _____

Printed Name Date

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Media Release Form (Appendix F)

I,_____ the undersigned, do hereby grant or deny permission to First United Methodist Church of Seattle (First Church) to use the image of my child(ren), _____, according to my selection(s) below. Such use includes the display, distribution, publication, transmission, or otherwise use of photographs, images, and/or video taken of my child for use in materials that include, but may not be limited to, printed materials such as brochures and newsletters; videos; and digital images such as those on the Web site.

____Deny permission to use my child's image at all. My child's image and/or representation may not be used in any form at any time.

____Grant permission to use my child's image in the following ways (mark all that apply):

☐ In photos on the church walls
☐ In email communication with First Church congregants and staff
☐ In the e-news email
☐ In materials on the First Church website, such as the Annual Report
☐ On First Church social media and/or website (Facebook and Instagram)
☐ On the First Church live stream video of service (available on YouTube)

_____ _____
Parent Signature Date

_____
Printed Name

_____ _____
Parent Signature Date

_____
Printed Name

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Addendums:

Safe Church Addendum:
(A 1 Mile Radius blanket)

First Church parents may sign a general waiver each year that allows their children to walk a one-mile radius of the First Church property with approved adults. This may include The Seattle Center, a coffee shop, a teacher-initiated activity on the outskirts of the property, etc. This must be renewed each year.

First Church
First United Methodist Church of Seattle

One Mile Waiver Permission Form

I, _____, the undersigned parent/guardian of
_____, do hereby give permission for my child(ren)/youth to participate in the events sponsored by First Church youth ministries in which they will walk up to a mile from the church campus. I understand that this event will take place at First Church, 180 Denny Way, Seattle, WA.
I understand that all child(ren)/youth and adult volunteers participating in this privilege will be responsible for conducting themselves in a fashion appropriate to a First Church event, and that all participants will be governed by the First Church Safe Church Policy for Children and Youth.
I have completed and signed a First Church emergency medical release form and understand that my child(ren)/youth will be treated for any medical emergencies as indicated on that form, which will be carried by adult volunteers throughout the event.

_____ _____
Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

_____ _____
Signature of Child Date

_____ _____
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian Date

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