

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

It is our goal to create a caring, inclusive environment for all youth and adults. The guidelines are for all youth and adults who participate in the youth ministry of FUMC.

- ◆ All youth are welcome to be a part of the youth ministry at FUMC. Our goal is to manifest love to everyone – no matter who, no matter what, no matter when, no matter where! We seek to create an atmosphere where all can experience this love without belonging to any particular clique, group, or social status.
- ◆ Each program and event is planned to facilitate a growing experience. Together we will participate. Together we will learn. Together we will be challenged. Together we will minister.
- ◆ **DAMAGE:** Willful and accidental damage to the church or other property is the responsibility of the person (group of persons) and parents. "You break it-You buy it."
- ◆ **PROMPTNESS:** Deadlines for registration fees will be published on event brochures and church newsletter. Deposits are generally non-refundable (unless the space is filled).
- ◆ **TRANSPORTATION:** All users of church and rental vans and buses are expected to maintain their good condition. When vans or busses are full, adults may be asked to assist with transportation. **Youth are not allowed to drive themselves or ride with youth on any youth events unless all parents of each youth have arranged such transportation with the Youth Minister and received permission * *
- ◆ **LODGING:** Some trips require room assignments. These are for the duration of the trip unless the Youth Minister feels a change is necessary. Females only allowed in female rooms and males only in male rooms.
- ◆ **ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS:** FUMC prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at activities or trips sponsored by FUMC. Adult leaders should support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and **may not allow the use of tobacco products at any FUMC activity involving youth participants. Any adult giving tobacco, alcohol products or any other illegal substances to youth will be removed.**
- ◆ **DISCIPLINE:** Upon violation of standards of behavior, students will receive a warning and then be subject to disciplinary action. Some larger group events will require a group covenant or code of conduct that must be signed in order to participate. Signing of these agreements will serve as the warning for behavior. Especially incidents involving drugs, potential sexual misconduct, or blatant disregard of rules will result in a student's immediate return home at the parent's expense.
- ◆ **PROFANITY:** Although profanity is becoming part of everyday life, youth and adults are encouraged not to use it or offensive gestures.
- ◆ **ELECTRONICS:** To assist the group building process, radios, and portable computers or televisions are not allowed at most events. Unless otherwise noted, cell phones are allowed as long as they do not distract or provoke youth away from the general program. When appropriate during downtime, cell phones may be used sparingly to contact family members. At no time during youth events should a youth's cell phone internet functions be in use since there is no way to limit or restrict age-appropriate content. During normal program activities, there is no need to have cell phones out or in use. If they are a problem, they will be taken up and returned to a parent at the end of the event.
- ◆ **ATTIRE:** Most youth events are active programs where informal clothing is appropriate. Clothing that advertises alcohol or tobacco products is not allowed. This guideline applies to clothing that promotes violence, hate or sexism.
- ◆ **DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION:** Dating couples should maintain appropriate boundaries – realizing events are for the group.
- ◆ **DISRESPECT TOWARD YOUTH OR ADULTS:** Practical jokes at the expense of others are not allowed. Communications between all persons in youth ministry should be in the spirit of love.

GUIDELINES SPECIFIC FOR ADULTS ON TRIPS:

- Sign up for trips and events with Youth Minister, or Youth Staff.
- Arrive promptly for trips (a little early to help with preparations)
- Support room assignments, curfews, room checks, and trip rules for youth.
- Travel together when traveling in more than one vehicle.
- Maintain a positive and flexible attitude. Remember trips and events are for the youth.
- Assist in getting youth to clean vehicles after each trip.