

**Sample Covenant and Limited Access Agreement** West Michigan Conference 2011  
Registered Adult Sex Offenders in the Life of the Congregation

This congregation, \_\_\_\_\_, affirms the dignity and worth of all persons. We are committed to being a religious community open to those who choose to worship with us, especially in times of serious personal troubles. However, based on your background, we have concerns about your contact with children, youth, and vulnerable adults in our congregation. The following guidelines are designed to reduce the risk of individuals being harmed and of you being accused of an incident. We welcome you to our congregation and our membership but your participation will be limited to ensure the safety of our children and to assure that you will not be subject to future unwarranted accusations.

Within these guidelines, the congregation welcomes your participation in adult worship services, coffee hour, adult Sunday school, and adult social events. You are to avoid all contact with children on congregation property or congregation sponsored events. Any exceptions regarding your own children will be considered on a case by case basis.

Two covenant partners will be assigned to you by the Abuse Prevention Team and the pastor.

The following guidelines will be followed without exception.

- Do not talk with adults with special needs, children and youth.
- Do not volunteer or agree to lead, chaperone or participate in events for adults with special needs, children and youth including such things as Sunday School classes, V.B.S., adults with special needs events, youth group events, or children events, driving or otherwise transporting children or youth.
- If an adult with special needs, child or youth in the congregation approaches you, either at church or in a community place, politely and immediately excuse yourself from the situation.
  - Avoid being in the building unsupervised when activities involving adults with special needs, children and youth are in session such as nursery school, children's church or youth group.
- If you are on parole/probation, you must adhere to any and all conditions of your parole/probation. The church may also contact your parole/probation officer to check the status of your adherence to parole/probation conditions. The church also strongly suggests that you seek counseling services if such services can be affordably obtained.
- You will not accept any leadership position within the church or representational position within or on behalf of this church.
- Church leadership will identify two "covenant partners" for you. They will be adults of the same gender as yours. They will not be related to you. If you need to go to the bathroom while services are in session at least one of these partners must go with you.
- If possible, you are to use bathroom facilities that can hold only one person at a time. If this is not possible, one of your covenant partners must accompany you every time you have to use the bathroom. This will be your responsibility.
- You are not allowed to be in any non-lit area of the church property.
  - At no time shall you deliberately place yourself in or remain in any location in or around the church facilities that would cause undue distress to others. (This prohibits you from being in or near nursery, preschool, elementary, junior high or high school area of the church facilities.)
- You cannot attend any night services unless authorized by Abuse Prevention Team designee in consultation with the pastor.
- You will also not be allowed under any circumstances to have access to the church computer.
- At least twice a year you shall meet with Abuse Prevention Team designee, covenant partners and the pastor and as otherwise requested regarding the status of your adherence to these guidelines.
  - If you should decide to relocate to another congregation, the Abuse Prevention Team designee and the pastor will seek to inform the leadership of that congregation of the condition of these guidelines.
- You may participate in worship in the sanctuary, and the adult Sunday school class of your choice. You will use the most direct route from the parking lot to the main entrance to these facilities, not passing through any other parts of the church buildings. Any other participation or access will require prior authorization and accompaniment by one of your covenant partners.
- At church sponsored functions for families, you may attend with, and will at no time leave the immediate proximity of, your family or one of your covenant partners.

- Before the covenant is finalized, it will be reviewed by the church's legal counsel to be sure that it does not put the church at legal risk.
- The offender will secure the initials of his or her parole or probation officer on this document for the church file.

Activity Checklist:

You understand that you will not be allowed to volunteer or chaperone events for adults with special needs, children and youth, including children's Christian education classes, talks with adults with special needs/children/youth, youth group, children's and youth activities during intergenerational events, and driving adults with special needs, children and youth.

The following activities checked "Yes" are activities we feel are appropriate for your participation.

	no	yes		no	yes
Worship services			With covenant partner		
Coffee Hour			With covenant partner		
Adult meetings with adults with special needs, children and/or youth in building, such as choir, Sunday School			With covenant partner		
Intergenerational church activities			With covenant partner		
Intergenerational group outings such as ice skating, baseball games, etc			With covenant partner		
Alone in building with pastor or other staff					
Social activities in other member's homes with children present			With covenant partner		
Other Activity:			With covenant partner		
Date:					
Other Activity:			With covenant partner		
Date:					
Other Activity:			With covenant partner		
Date:					
Other Activity:			With covenant partner		
Date:					

The offender will carry a signed copy of this Covenant and Limited Access Agreement while attending any church or church sponsored activity.

Signatures on next page must be attached.

I accept the following people who will be told of my circumstances and the contents of this contract to be my Covenant Persons.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**First Covenant Partner Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Covenant Partner **Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Second Covenant Partner Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Second Covenant Partner **Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have reviewed this covenant and agree to abide by its provisions. I understand and agree that if I violate this agreement, I will be denied access to future conference functions and church property. I understand a violation of the Covenant and Limited Access Agreement will result in denied access to future conference functions and the property.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Attendee (Offender) Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attendee (Offender) **Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Event Director/Pastor Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Event Director/Pastor **Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Abuse Prevention Team designee Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Abuse Prevention Team designee Witness **Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parole Officer Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parole Officer **Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

