

[CHURCH LETTERHEAD]

[Date]

[Name and Address]

Re: *Safe Sanctuaries Worship and Attendance Covenant*

Dear _____:

It has come to our attention that you have been convicted of a serious crime [*against a child or children, or vulnerable adult*]. Given the disposition of the criminal charge, and in keeping with the Church's commitment to provide a safe place for all persons, and especially children and other vulnerable persons — as stated in our Safe Sanctuaries Policy — we have established mandatory guidelines for your participation in activities at the [*CHURCH United Methodist Church*].

Our mandates are explained in the enclosed *Safe Sanctuaries Worship and Attendance Covenant*. We are hopeful that you will agree to the terms of the *Covenant*, and that you will abide by them and continue to worship with us.

We trust that you understand our reasons for presenting this covenant relationship. We want to protect all children and vulnerable persons. We also want to protect you, and avoid any circumstances where further accusations against you could occur. By taking these steps, we are hopeful that the Pastor, Church Staff and members of the congregation will be able to provide you with meaningful spiritual care. We recognize that everyone is in need of the mercy and grace that God offers.

Please know that the Safe Sanctuaries Committee and this congregation will be praying for you. We look forward to what God will do in your life, and in the lives of the other members of this congregation, as we continue to seek God's direction.

In Covenant Relationship,

Safe Sanctuaries Committee, Chair

SAFE SANCTUARIES WORSHIP AND ATTENDANCE COVENANT

Between *[NAME]* and *[CHURCH]*

In keeping with the United Methodist Church's commitment to provide a safe place for all persons – especially children and vulnerable adults — as outlined in the *[CHURCH'S]* Safe Sanctuaries Policy, I, *[NAME]*, understand this Covenant and will comply with the following mandates:

1. First, I share the Church's mission to provide a safe and healthy environment for all persons — myself and others. I understand that the mandates in this Covenant are for my protection, well-being and peace of mind, as well as that of others.
2. Beginning immediately, I agree that my presence in the Church will be limited to the sanctuary area, and that my attendance will be limited to worship services only. Attending worship means that I may enter the sanctuary no earlier than 20 minutes before worship service is scheduled to begin and that I must leave no later than 20 minutes after worship ends. At a later time, the Church may allow me to attend other activities, beyond worship. If that is permitted, my attendance at those activities will be subject to all of the other mandates in this Covenant.
3. I will restrict my contact to people who are eighteen years of age or older. I will not talk to, and will not have any contact with, any children or vulnerable adults associated with the congregation, either in person or by an electronic means (including via email, text or phone).
4. I will never be alone in the building. I will be accompanied by a designated adult chaperone at all times, including all of my restroom visits. There are *[INSERT NUMBER]* people who are available and have agreed to serve as my chaperone. Their names and telephone numbers are listed at the end of this Covenant. I will contact one of them prior to attending Church. One of my chaperones must meet me before entering the church and must be present with me at all times while I am in the Church. This includes accompanying me to the restroom.
5. I will not enter any space in the Church that is dedicated to children or youth ministries. Those spaces include, but are not limited to, areas where the following occur: Sunday school, nursery care, children's music rehearsals, and wherever children or youth congregate.
6. Until permitted by the Church, I will not serve on any committees. I will not hold any leadership or teaching positions.

7. I agree that the Pastor or her or his designee may contact my probation officer and other individuals in order to obtain information about me, and to solicit any input on how to minister to me and to the congregation. By signing this Covenant, I agree that any individual may share any information about me with the Pastor or her or his designee, and I release all persons from any liability as a result of their releasing information about me. This authorization and release specifically includes information, written or verbal, associated with my medical, psychological and psychiatric treatment that otherwise might be protected from disclosure by federal or state law.

8. I agree to meet and consult with the Pastor or representative of the Safe Sanctuaries Committee upon her or his request for the purpose of providing assistance to me or for the protection and security of the congregation and the community. I agree that it is necessary for the staff and members of the congregation to be advised of my status and the mandates agreed upon.

9. I agree that if I fail to comply with the mandates in this Covenant, I may be barred from the Church, including being prohibited from attending worship services. I also understand that this Covenant may be modified at any time. I agree that the mandates imposed in this Covenant extend and apply to all United Methodist Churches in the Upper New York Annual Conference.

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE MANDATES IN THIS SAFE SANCTUARIES WORSHIP AND ATTENDANCE COVENANT

Signature

Date

IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP:

Pastor

Date

Safe Sanctuaries Committee

Date

DESIGNATED ADULT CHAPERONES:

1. *Name, Address, Phone Number*
2. *Name, Address, Phone Number*
3. *Name, Address, Phone Number*