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## CAMP COUNSELOR COVENANT

Thank you so much for volunteering to be a counselor! We are so grateful you are offering your time and your gifts with the young people of our conference. Counseling can be a lot of fun, but it is first and foremost a responsibility. Parents are entrusting their children to our care. This covenant is intended to clarify counselor responsibilities, so that you and your counseling team can help assure our campers have a safe, fun, and memorable camp experience.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ PRESENT: I will arrive on time and stay for the duration of the camp event. I will not leave camp unless instructed or given permission by the Camp Directors.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ CLEAN, HEALTHY AND LEGAL:
  - a. Recreational use of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, or other mood-altering substances is not permitted during United Church of Christ (UCC) youth camps and youth retreats. I will notify the camp nurse of prescription meds on my health form.
  - b. No weapons of any kind are allowed on camp premises.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ PRIMARY ROLE: As a counselor I accept this responsibility on a 24-hour basis during camp. I commit to knowing the whereabouts of my campers at all times, upholding the PNC-UCC Safer Camp Policies and Guidelines.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ FOCUS: I understand that campers always come first. I will work with my fellow counselors to provide a safe and fun camping experience for them. Socializing with counselors and other staff will happen outside of camp.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ BALANCE: I am called to be equally concerned with each camper, seeking to balance their individual needs with the needs of the community as a whole.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ MINISTRY: As a UCC camp counselor, I understand that I am providing a ministry to youth. I will support the leadership of the chaplain, and encourage camper participation in spiritual programs. I will do my part to create a safe environment for youth to explore their spirituality, consistent with the values and mission of the UCC.

7. \_\_\_\_\_SAFE/REPORTING: I understand that if a camper discloses experiences of abuse, neglect, harm to self or harm to others, I am ethically bound to report it confidentially to the camp director as soon as possible.
  
8. \_\_\_\_\_MODELING: I will be respectful of all campers, counselors, directors, and site staff, remembering that I am a role model for the campers, and a representative of the UCC. My personal conduct, language, and how I treat others will greatly affect the morale and values of the camp. Campers take a message about the UCC back home with them—I help determine this message.
  
9. \_\_\_\_\_CONSISTENCY: I will live by the same rules as the campers. I will not give myself special privileges that campers are not allowed (except when the directors give me break time, which will be out of sight of campers).
  
10. \_\_\_\_\_RESPECT: I will support camp rules by respecting and upholding the Camper Code of Ethics for myself and campers alike (see attached).
  
11. \_\_\_\_\_ACCOUNTABILITY: I will notify the Camp Director immediately if I or anyone else is unable to fulfill this covenant in any way. Likewise, I understand that if a fellow counselor sees that I am unable to uphold this covenant, they will notify the Camp Director.
  
12. \_\_\_\_\_LIMITS: Camp is a team effort, and we are here to support one another in carrying out this ministry. Occasionally issues may come up that go beyond what we are trained or qualified to handle. If this happens I will let the Director know immediately. Also, if I need a break, am feeling overwhelmed or tired, I will let my Director know.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CAMP EVENT \_\_\_\_\_

SAFE POLICY

11/2014