

SEX OFFENDER LIMITED ACCESS AGREEMENT

It is important to note that this is a “model” or “sample” agreement. It does not cover every issue that Local Churches may want to consider in the development of such an agreement. Consistent with UCC polity and practice, Local Churches adopt their own agreements. Local Churches and other settings are encouraged to consider adopting the agreement as adapted, revised, or changed to meet their own unique circumstances, state laws, or other factors. The ministries of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ are not engaged in giving legal or professional advice or services by providing this model policy.

SAMPLE

SEX OFFENDER LIMITED ACCESS AGREEMENT

_____ is a congregation that boldly proclaims “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!” and as such affirms the dignity and worth of all persons as expressed in our Welcome Statement. We are committed to being a religious community open to those who are in need of worshiping with us, especially in times of distress and serious personal troubles.

However, based on your background, we have concerns about your contact with children and youth in our congregation. We welcome you to our congregation and our membership but your participation will be limited to ensure the safety of our children and youth.

Within these guidelines, the congregation welcomes your participation in worship services, coffee hour, meetings, adult education, and all adult social events. You are to avoid all contact with children and youth under the age of 18 on church property or at congregation-sponsored events. This includes the following:

- You will remain in the presence of a Parish Associate who knows your situation at all times while on church-owned property, church-rented property, or at congregation-sponsored events. You must meet that person before coming onto church property (or before arriving at any congregation-sponsored event), remain with the Parish Associate at all times, and depart with the Parish Associate.
- Do not talk with children unless both you and the child/youth have immediate supervision beside you.
- Do not volunteer or agree to lead, chaperone or participate in events specifically for children and youth including such things as Vacation Bible School, Trick or Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, religious education classes, children’s stories or talks for worship, youth group specific-events, driving or otherwise transporting children and/or youth.
- If an activity is an intergenerational event, you will stay with your designated Parish Associate and will not initiate conversation with a child/youth.
- If a child or youth in the congregation approaches you, either at church or in a community place, politely and immediately excuse yourself from the situation. If this is impossible to do, ensure that a Parish Associate is beside you and the child/youth has an adult with them.
- Do not ask for, seek access to, nor remove from the church any materials, files, directories, etc. listing members and friends of the church.
- We ask that you are aware of your surroundings during coffee hour and retain the above stated, proper boundaries with any children/youth present.
- While working outside on church property you must remain in the presence of your Parish Associate. If an unsupervised child/youth comes towards your direction, and a

Parish Associate is not immediately besides you, remove yourself from the situation until the child/youth has passed by.

As a part of this agreement it is understood that you will have four (4) members of this congregation (approved by the pastor and council) who thoroughly know your history and are willing to serve as your Parish Associates. You will be welcome on church property and at church-sponsored events but must be accompanied at all times by or in clear view of one of the Parish Associates named below:

To engage your integration into the congregation and to assist you in maximizing your experience with the church it is agreed that you will meet on a bi-monthly basis with the Parish Associates and the pastor together or separately to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. These meetings will also serve as an ongoing review of the implementation of this agreement.

As part of this agreement you acknowledge and agree that the congregation will be notified of your history. This will take place by an oral statement by you to the congregation on date. New members of the congregation will be notified individually by the pastor.

Implementation of this agreement is based upon a review by the clergy of the most current supporting documents as follows:

- A statement from the court as to the nature of the conviction.
- A risk assessment from a qualified therapist.
- A report from a certified treatment provider indicating that you are not at too high a risk for recidivism.

Any change in the above must be reported immediately to a member of the clergy.

REASONS FOR EXCLUDING A PERSON FROM ALL CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Refusal to allow the clergy to contact the treatment provider and parole officer.
- Refusal to go for a risk assessment with a qualified therapist.
- Report by a treatment provider that the individual is at too high a risk for recidivism.
- Refusal to sign a Limited Access Agreement.
- Refusal to comply with the requirements of the Limited Access Agreement.

This agreement will remain in effect until/unless:

- You fail to honor the terms of the agreement, thus nullifying it.
- The Agreement is superseded by any policies and procedures put in place by the church's Abuse Prevention Committee. The Abuse Prevention Committee in consultation with the pastor is the body responsible for providing you with guidelines, support, and counsel for your participation in the life of the congregation.
- You, the pastor, and the Safe Church Committee mutually agree to change the terms of this agreement.

I have reviewed the terms of the above Limited Access Agreement and agree to abide by its provisions. Failure to honor its terms will result in my being denied access to church property and all church events.

Signature Date

Printed Name

Signature of Witness Date

Signature of Parish Associate Date

Parish Associate Printed Name

Signature of Witness Date

Signature of Parish Associate Date

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