

CODE OF ETHICS FOR ADULTS IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

All Adults **MUST** read the following **in its entirety**, and must fully understand the following.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please contact a co-chair with your questions.

In response to an increased awareness and understanding of the importance of relationships between adults, youth and children in the church environment, the Youth Adult Committee has submitted this Code of Ethics. **Please read it carefully.** You are being asked to embrace these standards and covenant to follow the behavior guidelines with all youth attending this conference, sponsored by the OMD YRUU.

Adults and older youth in leadership roles hold the position of stewardship in fostering spiritual development. It is especially important that those in leadership positions provide appropriate nurture, care and support. Spiritual growth in human beings includes physical, emotion, intellectual and sexual identities. Please be mindful that all communication has the potential of carrying harmful messages. Communication includes body language, facial expressions and tone of voice, as well as choice of words in written and verbal expression.

Children, youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders engage in physical, emotional, verbal or intellectual abuse of any kind. In addition, behavior that is seductive, erotic or contains sexual innuendo can be especially damaging.

As of April 21, 2001, the state of Ohio requires all organizations that “provide care, treatment, education, training, instruction, supervision, or recreation to children” notify every volunteer with unsupervised access to a child of the following:

The volunteer must be informed that, at any time in the future, he/she may be required to provide a set of fingerprints, and that a criminal background check may be made on the volunteer using those fingerprints.

Under current legislation, there is no requirement to actually obtain fingerprints or conduct criminal background checks. At this time, the only requirement is that volunteers be notified that such steps may be taken in the future.

As a leader and role model at any OMD YRUU youth conference, you are asked to covenant to follow these guidelines.

“I covenant to...

1. Be mindful that spiritual growth, in both my own and that of others, encompasses all of the following aspects of relationship (spiritual)...
2. Be consciously gentle and non-threatening in all physical contact and proximity with children and youth and adults (physical)...
3. Communicate in a manner that is positive and affirming, as feelings and ideas are shared most honestly in a safe environment (emotional/intellectual)...
4. Refrain from all behaviors, both verbal and physical, that are in any way erotic, seductive or sexual in nature (sexual)...

...I understand that in case of violation, appropriate action will be taken.”

My signature below verifies that I have read the above **in its ENTIRETY** and I covenant to uphold the above four statements in my work with all youth who attend this conference sponsored by OMD YRUU, and that I have read and understand the statement regarding the Ohio law as explained above.

Please Print name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____