

CREATING A YOUTH GROUP COVENANT

The Youth Group should create a covenant each year that addresses issues of sexual behaviors, sexual harassment, and sexual relationships. Youth Groups can review the prior year's covenant and discuss whether they want to make changes. Adult leaders should guide the discussion to assure that it does not violate the state's consent laws or federal sexual harassment law.

Items to discuss include:

Is it permissible for youth group members to be in romantic and/or sexual relationships with each other? Many youth groups decide it is not to avoid awkwardness when relationships end and to focus the group's dynamics on the group as a whole.

What physical displays of affection are allowed in the group among members? If hugging and cuddling is okay, how can a person who does not want such touch let the other members of the youth group know?

During youth group events, is kissing, hand holding, or going off alone to engage in permissible sexual behaviors permissible? If a person is found violating the guidelines on private sexual behaviors, what actions will the youth group and the adult advisors take?

What will be done if someone makes comments and remarks that are offensive to another based on a person's sex, sexual experience, sexual orientation, race, ethnic, or gender identity?

What policies will be followed if someone creates a sexually harassing environment just as sexting, sharing sexually explicit materials, or telling sexual jokes during youth group times? Outside of the group?

What are the policies related to cell phones, picture taking, posting online, using the Internet to access sexually explicit materials during youth group or youth group events? What will be done if these policies are violated?

What does the Youth Group assume about confidentiality about people's individual sharing? What is it okay to share outside of the group?