**Preston Hollow Presyterian Church (PHPC)**

**Youth Ministry Covenant**

**The Purpose of this Covenant:**

Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church is an open and affirming congregation of the PC(USA). Trusting that all belong to God. Living like we all belong to one another. The purpose of our youth ministry is to maintain this same purpose and ideal within our Youth House, our relationships with one another, and our interactions with those in both our greater Church and community.

**The Foundation:**

The foundation of Jesus Christ’s teachings are those of love, responsibility to each other, and compassion and justice with an emphasis on inclusion of all. The PHPC Youth Ministry will maintain and strive for the same core values and expectations. Participants should always act in the best interest of the whole group and will be held responsible for every action. Participants unclear about the appropriateness of a behavior should seek the advice of the Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults and the Director of Youth Ministries.

**The Expectations:**

* Full participation is requested of every participant during every meeting, event, program, activity, practice, trip and rehearsal.
* Each participant should respect him- or herself, other people, and personal, public and church property at all times.
* Responsibility should be shown in regard to any display of affection.
* Each participant should be responsible for her or his choice of language. The language should be positive, supportive, and representative of our church family.
* Seatbelts must be worn when traveling at all times.
* Participants will not use or possess any illegal drugs, illegal substances, alcohol, and tobacco products of any kind or weapons.
* Participants will not participate in any extra-marital sexual activity.
* Participants must adhere to local, state, and federal laws at all times.

**Social Media Expectations:**

In a world where social media is becoming increasingly more accessible and influential, the expectations of our participants is to maintain the same responsibility on social media as with all other forms of interpersonal interactions. Participants will interact on all social media platforms with the same purpose of building up our group instead of tearing it down.

**The Management of the Covenant:**

It is the responsibility of every member of the PHPC family to hold all other participants responsible. This role does not just fall on the shoulders of the adults alone (although they are to be respected as figures of authority).

**The Consequences for Inappropriate Actions:**

For serious concerns (drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, sexual activity or any illegal behavior including misdemeanors and felonies), the youth will be required to notify their parents in the presence of an adult leader. Once notified, the parents, the Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, and the Director of Youth Ministries will work together to establish the next appropriate step with the youth’s best interest in mind at all times. The Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults and the Director of Youth Ministries reserve the right to send any participant home at his or her own expense for inappropriate behavior.

**The Conclusion:**

The purpose of this covenant is not to restrict youth but to engage them fully in the calling of community with one another. The hope is that by signing this, each participant works to create a space for all at the table and promises to hold themselves and each other accountable for the role we all take in maintaining the Kingdom of God.

**We, the undersigned, have read and discussed this covenant and agree to abide by it.**

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 PHPC Youth Participant Signature Date

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 Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Rev. Sarah Are

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