

## Staff and Volunteer Safe Church Covenant

East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church

At East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church, we are committed to providing a safe and loving atmosphere for children and youth, as well as the adults who work with them, as they worship, study, play and grow in Christian faith. We want to promote a culture of safety, and address any concerns in a spirit of openness, accountability and interdependence.

This means we will always strive to keep our relationships with children open and public, and interact in healthy ways with all children and youth in our church.

As a staff-person or volunteer, I therefore commit myself to the following:

- I will respect a child/youth's personal feelings by asking if they would welcome a hug or not. When this is welcomed, we will use hugs and touches that are reassuring and not uncomfortable.
- I will avoid total body-to-body hugs, touching in private areas or a kiss on the lips.
- I will use warm, caring verbal comments.
- I will use constructive, age-appropriate discipline suited to the behavior and the child.
- I will not use demeaning or blaming comments, verbal put-downs, hurtful discipline or corporal punishment.
- I will be alert to and responsive to cues given by the child.
- I will be respectful in my use of photography and ask permission before using photographs in a public way.

In addition, I will:

- Participate in the congregation's educational and training events about abuse and safe church guidelines.
- Promptly report any abusive or inappropriate behavior to ChildLine, at 1-800-932-0313 and on the Child Welfare site: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis>.
- Notify a pastor in the congregation, and provide the necessary information.
- Complete or update any required forms or background checks.

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Signature

Date