

**East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church  
Volunteer Covenant**

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 have attended ECSMC for at least six months.
- I have read and understand our Safe Church Policy.
- I have participated in a Safe Church training within the past five years.
- I have completed the required background checks within the past five years.
- I understand my obligation to immediately report suspected child abuse by either making an online report via the Child Welfare Portal <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home> and receiving confirmation my report was received, or by calling ChildLine at 1-800-932-0313, and then, within 48 hours, filing the CY-47 report.
- I will notify the relevant leader in the congregation, and provide the necessary information.

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Name

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Signature

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Date