

LIMITED ACCESS AGREEMENT

May 28, 2021

In Cases of Convicted Child Sex Offenders

St. John's Center UCC (SJCUC) is a congregation that boldly proclaims, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!" and as such affirms the dignity and worth of all persons. We are committed to being a religious community open to those who are in need of worshiping with us, especially in times of distress and serious personal troubles.

However, based on your background, we have concerns about your contact with children and youth in our congregation. We welcome you to our congregation and our membership, but your participation will be limited to ensure the safety of our children and youth.

Within these guidelines, the congregation welcomes your participation in worship services, meetings, adult education, and all adult social events. You are to avoid all unsupervised contact with children and youth under the age of 18 on church property or congregation-sponsored events. This includes the following:

- You will remain in the presence of a Church Associate who knows your situation at all times while on church-owned property, church-rented property, or at congregation-sponsored events. You must meet that person upon entry into the church parking lot (or before arriving at any congregation-sponsored event), remain with him/her at all times, and depart with him/her.
- Do not talk with children unless both you and the child/youth have immediate supervision beside you.
- Do not volunteer or agree to lead, chaperone, or participate in events specifically for children and youth including such things as Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunt, religious education classes, children's stories or talks for worship, youth group specific-events, driving or otherwise transporting children and/or youth.
- If an activity is an intergenerational event, you will stay with your designated Church Associate and will not initiate conversation with a child/youth.
- If a child or youth in the congregation approaches you, either at church or in a community place, politely and immediately excuse yourself from the situation. If this is impossible to do, ensure that a Church Associate is beside you and the child/youth has an adult with them.
- Do not ask for, seek access to, nor remove from the church any materials, files, directories, etc. listing members and friends of the church.
- We ask that you are aware of your surroundings during coffee hour and retain the above stated, proper boundaries with any children/youth present.
- While working outside on church property you must remain in the presence of your Church Associate and you must not initiate conversation with children/youth on the church property. If an unsupervised child/youth comes towards your direction, and a Church Associate is not immediately beside you, remove yourself from the situation.

As a part of this agreement it is understood that you will have four (4) members of this congregation (approved by the pastor and church leadership) who thoroughly know your history and are willing to serve as your Church Associates. You will be welcome on church property and at church-sponsored events, but must be accompanied at all times by or in clear view of one of the Church Associates named below.

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To engage your integration into the congregation and to assist you in maximizing your experience with the church, it is agreed that you will initially meet at least 2 times per month with the Church Associates and the pastor collectively or separately to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. These meetings will also serve as an ongoing review of the implementation of this agreement.

As part of this agreement you acknowledge and agree that the congregation will be notified of your history. This will take place by an oral statement by you to the congregation on a pre-determined date. New members of the congregation will be notified individually by the pastor.

Implementation of this agreement is based upon a review by the pastor of the most current supporting documents as follows:

- A statement from the court as to the nature of the conviction.
- A risk assessment from a qualified therapist.
- A report from a certified treatment provider indicating that you are not at too high a risk for recidivism.

Any change in the above must be reported immediately to the pastor.

REASONS FOR EXCLUDING A PERSON FROM ALL CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Refusal to allow the pastor to contact the treatment provider and parole officer.
- Refusal to go for a risk assessment with a qualified therapist.
- Refusal to continue regularly scheduled therapy.
- Report by a treatment provider that the individual is at too high a risk for recidivism.
- Refusal to sign a Limited Access Agreement.
- Refusal to comply with the requirements of the Limited Access Agreement.

This Limited Access Agreement will remain in effect until/unless:

- _____ fails to honor the terms of the agreement, thus nullifying it.
- It is superseded by any policies and procedures put in place by the church's Leadership Team. The Church Leadership Team, in consultation with the pastor, is the body responsible for providing _____ with guidelines, support, and counsel for _____'s participation in the life of the congregation.
- _____, the pastor, and the Church Leadership Team mutually agree to change the terms of this agreement.
- The parole board modifies the conditions of the parole.



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Acknowledgement

I have reviewed the terms of the above limited access agreement and agree to abide by its provisions. Failure to honor its terms will result in my being denied access to church property and all church events.

Signature Date

Printed Name

Signature of Witness Date

PASTOR

Signature of Pastor Date

Pastor Printed Name

Signature of Witness Date

Church Associates

1) _____
Signature of Church Associate Date

Church Associate Printed Name

Signature of Witness Date

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2) _____
Signature of Church Associate Date

Church Associate Printed Name

Signature of Witness Date

3) _____
Signature of Church Associate Date

Church Associate Printed Name

Signature of Witness Date

4) _____
Signature of Church Associate Date

Church Associate Printed Name

Signature of Witness Date