

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW AND ACTON

CODE OF CONDUCT

FOR VOLUNTEERING AND WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Our commitment, as Unitarian Universalists, to the inherent worth and dignity of every person, to justice and to compassion, compel us to create a safe environment that protects children and youth from harm and promotes their growth spiritually and individually, as well as being part of our FPC community.

Adults and older youth that are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering the spiritual development of both individuals and the community. Few areas of growth are more important than those of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity.

As a leader and role model in the religious education program of First Parish Church, I will strive to:

- Nurture spiritual growth in myself and others, recognizing that as I work with children/youth I can grow and learn along with them.
- Seek out advice (from the Director of Religious Education (DRE) or a Religious Education Committee member) if I am not sure how to handle a situation in my work with children and/or youth.
- Communicate in a manner that is affirming and positive.

In addition, I will avoid the following specific behaviors and agree to not:

- Engage in sexual, seductive, or erotic behavior with children and youth.
- Verbally or physically abuse children and youth.
- Use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while engaging in activities with children and youth.
- Discriminate against children and youth based on race, color, ethnicity, religious, national origin, age, ability, gender identity, or sexual/affectional orientation.

I will hold confidential at all times anything that others disclose during meetings. I understand that exceptions to confidentiality include expressed thought or intent to hurt self or others, behavior that is interpreted as dangerous to self or others, or reports of physical and sexual abuse.

In these circumstances, I will immediately inform my Advisor(s), DRE, Minister, or a member of the Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Response Team.

In addition, I will take appropriate action if I become aware that other adults, children, or youth are in violation of this code of conduct.

I hereby agree to and affirm that I will abide by this Code of Conduct. If I violate this code, I understand that appropriate action will be taken.

Signature _____

Date _____