

First Unitarian Church, South Bend
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Code of Ethics

For Those Working with Children and Youth

Those who teach and/or lead our children and youth play a key role in fostering their spiritual growth and character development. It is therefore, especially important that those in leadership positions provide the special nurture, care and support that will enable our children and youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility.

Therefore, those who teach and/or lead our children/youth will:

- Provide nurturing care and support to all children/youth.
- Work to help children/youth develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence.
- Respect the selfhood of each young person, including the absolute right to privacy of their own mind and body.
- Not engage in any behavior with young people which constitutes verbal, emotional or physical abuse.
- Not engage in behavior or language which is personally threatening or demeaning.
- Not engage in any sexually harassing behavior, nor any other sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with children/youth.
- Not encourage or condone any sort of illegal or unethical activity on the part of children/youth.
- Not consume alcohol or use any form of drug, which can affect physical or mental performance before or during the carrying out of their responsibilities.
- Any mentoring relationship will progress only with the prior knowledge and consent of parents or guardians, and after notifying the DREAM team, minister or Board President of said parental consent.

Leaders shall be informed of the Code of Ethics, and of their legal obligation to report suspected child abuse, and agree to it before assuming their role. In cases of violation of this code, appropriate action will be taken.

I have read the above Code of Ethics and understand that these guidelines govern expected behavior of those working with the children and youth at First Unitarian Church, South Bend.

Name Printed _____

Signature _____ Date _____