

# *Sunrise UMC Youth Group Covenant*

*As members of Christ's body and of Sunrise youth group we covenant with God and with each other to uphold the following standards and meet the following expectations that we have set for ourselves to create a holy space in which all are welcome.*

## ***GROUP QUALITIES***

*The Sunrise Youth Group is open to anyone who is seeking to further their relationship with Jesus Christ. As a group we covenant to be a place that shows God's love through loving one another, offering friendship and interacting with everyone, respecting times of peace and reverence and most of all being people that embody the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22-23)*

## ***GROUP INTERACTION***

*Our time together during Youth group is intended to help further our walk with Christ and strengthen our bonds of Christian love with each other. As a group we covenant to be respectful of any who are speaking, giving them our attention and listening with an open heart and mind for what God is saying through them. We will talk about what God has done in the past as we read Scripture, what God is doing now as we share our faith with one another and what God will do in the future as we think about what God is calling us to do. We will offer smiles and signs of Christian affection as a witness to our care and concern for each member of Christ's body.*

## ***GROUP DISTINCTION***

*As a group of Christians we covenant to be different for other gatherings of people our age. We covenant to create an environment that: seeks to focus first and foremost on God, is free of judgment, ridicule and peer pressure and offers time for personal and communal reflection and growth. We will move forward on our walk with Christ, not unnecessarily dwelling in the past, but growing and learning together from our mistakes and missteps.*

## ***GROUP NECESSITIES***

*There are items that we recognize are beneficial to our spiritual growth and we covenant to always have these things present every time we gather together: Bibles, smiles, love, positive attitudes, ourselves free of distractions and our friends. We also recognize that there are items that distract us from faithfully listening to God's word. We covenant to leave these things at home: any electronics, outside stresses like homework, bad attitudes, negativity and any weapons or illegal substances.*

*We will always seek to uphold this covenant, recognizing its importance as a promise we are making with one another and with God. We will graciously hold one another accountable to following this covenant, offering gentle reminders to those who break the covenant. Sunrise UMC Youth are here to show others the love of God and in doing so, develop a closer walk with Christ.*