

Covenant Process

Here is a template for an individual/group covenant. It can be as simple or as detailed as you feel it should be. It is not necessary to include all of the ideas below. Create your own covenant that meets the needs of your congregation and group.

Individual Covenant for **(participant's name)**:

Personal goals

These are my personal goals for our church trip; they represent what I hope to learn and experience. I will give my time and energy to these goals and take responsibility for them before, during, and after our excursion.

1. I expect the experience to help me grow in these ways:
2. I can contribute the following skills, interest, and gifts to our group:
3. I'd like to see the following happen within our group as a result of our experience:
4. I plan to treat others and hope that others treat me in these ways (consider including comments or concerns of sexism, racism, prejudice, teasing, church pride, etc.):
5. The group can help me with these personal goals I have by:
6. After talking with my family, pastor, or other members of my congregation, I discovered that they have the following hopes for my experience:
7. My understanding of the theme and purpose of the experience is:

Group behavior and goals

1. As members of God's family, we will treat each other in the following manner:

(Include comments or concerns of sexism, racism, prejudice, teasing, church pride, language, etc.)

2. We covenant to help one another in the following ways:

(Consider things like encouraging each other to fully participate, reaching out to others with special needs, taking the initiative to do your share, noticing the needs and feelings of others, slow down enough to create space for relationships, etc.)

3. We covenant to bring this experience back home to those not able to participate by:

(Develop a plan for sharing your witness with your congregation. If this is a service experience they sent you as missionaries to the larger church and world, and, like missionaries, you are returning with a witness to God's presence and activity in the world. You may also want to formally thank those who offered support and prayers. Finally, consider how you will use what you learned.)

4. In our covenanting together, we expect our adult leaders to:

(Include a brief job description for the adult leaders.)

5. We covenant together to handle the following behavior issues in these ways:

(Address issues of relationships and couples, sexual relationships, smoking and chewing, drugs and alcohol, disagreements, going off alone, etc.)

6. In the event that someone breaks our covenant, we will address it in the following manner:

(Determine courses of action, such as holding a group discussion, calling parents, dealing with the problem in private, sending someone home at the parent's expense, etc.)

7. In order to make our experience a safe and positive experience for all, we, the youth and adults of _____ congregation, also covenant to abide by the behavior guidelines established by the Gathering.

Youth/adult participant signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent or guardian signature (for youth under 18 years of age):

Date: _____

Copy and sign 3 copies of your covenant(s): one copy for the participant, one copy for the parent or guardian, and one copy for the adult leaders.