

Adult Youth Leader Agreement to Adhere to Policy
For the New England Synod Hammonasset Event

As an Adult youth leader supervising youth at the New England Synod Hammonasset Event, I understand the necessity of refraining from any activity or conversation which would cause discomfort or harm to any participant and further cause me to be vulnerable to any allegation of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, or any form of sexual misconduct.

I hereby declare that I have not been charged or convicted of any criminal activity related to sexual abuse, molestation, or harassment of adults, children or youth and that there is presently no open investigation or viable allegation in the process of being investigated.

In addition, I have read and fully understand, and pledge my support and cooperation with the following statement:

Sexual Conduct: Adult youth leaders are expected to give equal attention to all youth. Adult youth leaders are expected to conduct themselves in the highest manner of propriety and respect for others, and to contribute to a safe environment for all participants, with an absence of intimidation, embarrassment, or threats. Therefore, adult youth leaders shall not pursue, engage in, or accept sexual or romantic relationships with any youth at Hammonasset, during the course of the event or at any other time. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated; it is defined as any verbal or physical sexual advance, suggestion, or conduct, or any such conduct that is unwelcome, or words or conduct that creates an offensive, hostile, or intimidating environment. This may include, but is not limited to verbal abuse, joking, telling stories or jokes, innuendoes, physical conduct, suggestive physical behavior; requesting, suggesting, or demanding sexual favors with implied or overt threats or physical assault which is legally defined as uninvited physical conduct. Adult youth leaders shall intervene and put a stop to any instances of sexual harassment or abuse. Offenders shall be reported to the Hammonasset leadership.

The ELCA is committed to avoiding sexual assault and abuse in the church, and it will not be tolerated at the Hammonasset Event. Further, adult youth leaders involved in romantic relationships with other adult leaders shall maintain discretion in public displays of affection.

Adult youth leaders shall monitor and be aware of developing romantic relationships between youth participants so that no youth is threatened, harassed, or intimidated by the conduct of other youth. In the course of discussions with youth on human sexuality, adult youth leaders shall refrain from discussing their personal sexual experiences.

Connecticut law requires that any “physical, sexual, or mental abuse inflicted by a person responsible for a child’s health, welfare or care, or by a person given access to such child by such responsible person” (General Statutes 17a-101) be reported to a law enforcement agency or the Commission of Children and Families. Adult youth leaders are expected to report immediately any suspicions of abuse to the person(s) designated by the Hammonasset Event Planning Committee to handle these suspicions, and report to the local law enforcement agency or the Commission of Children and Families.

Sexual harassment, abuse, or conduct in violation of this policy shall result in removal from the event as well as any appropriate legal action.

I agree to be bound by the provisions of this statement, and to be bound by the Constitution of the New England Synod in the performance of my services for this event. I further state that I have carefully read and understand the foregoing agreement, and sign it as my own free act.

Youth Leader’s Signature:

Witness Signature:

Name (printed):

Witness Name (printed):

Date: