

**YOUTH GROUP COVENANT**  
**RISE UP**  
2015 ELCA Youth Gathering  
Detroit

*As Christians, we live with a blending of two covenants. The first covenant is from Jesus, who said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39*

*The second covenant is from God, who on Mt. Sinai gave to Moses what we refer to as the Ten Commandments. Using these two covenants as our basis for how to live, we honor the following covenant for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering.*

**1. We will travel, gather, and lift up the reality that we have been called by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** We will remember with thanksgiving that we are representing a larger community. We represent our home churches, our families. We are representing that we have been baptized and so we will live with God's love and grace in our lives.

**2. We will honor God.** We will honor God in our words and deeds. We will keep God's name holy. We will likewise honor one another with our speech and actions.

**3. We will worship God.** We will attend all the main worship and celebration events and as we gather with thousands of other Youth and Adults, we will praise God with song, give thanks to God in prayer, and listen to the Word of God as it is given to us by the speakers and presenters. We will attend this event with the realization that all of it, from the moment we step on the bus in Wisconsin to the moment we step off the bus back in Wisconsin, we are really on a Sabbath – we are in the holy company of fellow saints. We will follow the Gathering guidelines during worship, and so we will:

- Not bring lighters, candles, matches to the Celebrations
- Not throw items, such as: toilet paper, beach balls, coins, and so on
- Not save seats

**4. We will honor and respect one another.** This includes honoring and respecting all whom we will encounter, from the bus drivers and conductors to the maids in the hotel to other youth from around the country. We realize that disagreements will arise and when they do, we will seek out counsel from the adult who is our small group leader, then from the lead counselor for our group. We will abide by the decisions made.

**5. We will lift and build up one another.** We will look for ways to daily lift one another up. As we meet new people we will seek out how God has blessed them.

**6. We will respect our own and one another's bodies.** Realizing that we are a "temple in which the Holy Spirit dwells," we will treat our bodies with due respect. Therefore, there will be:

- No underage use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs
- No sexual activity
- No weapons of any nature, including Swiss army or pocket knives

We will follow the attached dress code.

To protect and honor and look out for one another, we will always be in groups of no fewer than three people, including one adult, from our core group.

**7. We will protect one another's possessions.** Knowing that all that we have comes from God, we will respect the possessions God has graced us with. We will treat with respect the hotel we will be staying at, the buses we will be traveling on, Ford Field, the Convention Center, and the city of Detroit. And because these are a distraction from the purposes of community and service for which we are coming, iPods, MP3 players, Blackberries and similar devices will not be used while we are at the Gathering; we agree that they may be used respectfully on our trips down and back, but they will be put away securely for the duration of our stay in Detroit. The *one* exception to this will be permission of cell phones, but *only* as a means to connect with our core group in case we are separated or in some emergency.

**8. We will care for our environment.** Recognizing that God created all things and has made us responsible stewards of this world, we will take care of our surroundings. We will clean up after ourselves, properly disposing of trash and recyclables on our train and bus, in our hotel and the Superdome, and wherever we are we will endeavor to leave the site as clean or better than we found it.

**9. We will respect one another's time.** With the realization that we are individuals within a group, we realize we are responsible to the entire group. Therefore, we will honor all time constraints and boundaries, with the knowledge that some times are non-negotiable, such as:

- Time attending the major worship/celebrations
- Time attending the seminars
- Curfew times set by the Gathering and the hotel

We have read this covenant and with the signing of our names, we honor the spirit and intent of the covenant and will abide by its guidelines. We also acknowledge that violation of this covenant will result in dismissal from the Gathering and return home by the next available source of transportation at parental expense.

**Participant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastor** \_\_\_\_\_ If I am attending this Gathering, I will be diligent in seeing each youth as an individual child of God. I will listen, be as fair as possible, and care for each of these youth. Whether I am attending the Gathering or not, I will daily pray for each of the youth and adults on this trip.

**Parent** \_\_\_\_\_ If I am attending this Gathering, I will be diligent in seeing each youth as an individual child of God. I will listen, be as fair as possible, and care for each of these youth. Attending or not attending, I will pray for my child and the other youth and adults as well.

## Dress Code

### Personal Appearance -

Clothing and appearance is one way of maintaining order and protecting the health, safety and well being of all. Clothing and appearance are also means of expressing one's identity and one's connectedness with God. It is expected that the dress and appearance of everyone will not endanger the public health and safety, nor disrupt the goals of this trip.

Shoes will always be worn outside the hotel. Footwear should *not* be open toe or heel (such as flip flops), so tennis shoes, boots and the like are acceptable.

No skin or undergarments exposed from mid-thigh to the armpit line. Muscle shirts, see-through shirts or blouses, bare midriffs, strapless and/or backless outfits, halter tops, spandex and beachwear\* are prohibited!

(“beachwear”, of course, is permissible for the hotel pool, but skimpy outfits such as small two-piece bikinis, speedos and the like are discouraged)

### Definitions -

Mid-thigh – the point where fingertips touch the thigh, when arms are relaxed and at the sides.

Armpit line – the line that connects the upper armpits across the chest and around the back. A string or tape measure can be used in evaluation.

### Examples of unsuitable/unacceptable dress are:

- helmets, hoods, or homemade headgear
- clothing adorned with improper writing or pictures
- clothing or adornments with inappropriate or negative messages regarding alcohol, drugs, sex, race, or gender
- clothing with “double meaning” expressions about any of the previously mentioned items.

This code is not limited by any of the examples mentioned.