**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas**

**Code of Ethics and Conduct for Adults Working with Children and Youth**

Our commitment, as Unitarian Universalists, is to the inherent worth and dignity of every person, to justice, and to compassion, compels us to create a safe environment that protects children and youth from harm and promotes their spiritual growth.

Adults and older youth that are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering the spiritual development of both individuals and community. It is, therefore, especially important that those in leadership positions be well qualified to provide the special nurture, care, and support that will enable children and youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility. The relationship between young people and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential is to be realized.

Few areas of growth are more important than those of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth. Children and youth suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with or place inappropriate emotional burdens on young persons in their care.

Mentors and leaders need to be aware of the strong influence they have in the community. It is expected that their influence will be exerted in a positive manner.

As a leader and role model in the Faith Development program of UUCLV, I will strive to:

* Nurture spiritual growth in myself and others;
* Be consciously gentle and non-threatening;
* Exercise sound judgment in assessing my emotional state and its influence on my ability to function in my role as leader;
* Remain mindful that much is communicated through non-verbal means including tone of voice, facial expression, and body language, and strive to communicate in a manner that is affirming and positive.

In addition, I will avoid the following specific behaviors. I will refrain from:

* Engaging in sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with children and youth;
* Harassing or verbally or physically abusing children and youth;
* Using or being under the influence of alcohol, or illegal drugs, while engaging in activities with children and youth;
* Discriminating against or harassing children and youth, based on race, color, ethnicity, religious, national origin, age, ability, gender or sexual/affectional orientation.

In addition, I will take appropriate action to ensure that other adults, children, and youth adhere to this code of conduct.

I hereby agree to and affirm that I will abide by this Code of Ethics and Conduct. If I violate this code, I understand that appropriate action will be taken.

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Print Full Name Signature Date

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas**

**Volunteer Registration Form for Children’s and Teen’s Faith Development**

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| --- |
| **Name *(last) (first) (middle init.)*** |
|  |  |  |
| **Address *(street) (city) (state) (zip)*** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Contact Info *(home phone) (cell phone) (e-mail)*** |
|  |  |  |
| **Please help us get to know you better by answering the following questions?** |
| ***Do you have any special skills or knowledge that you would like to share?*** |
| ***Tell us about any volunteer experience?*** |
| **What age-group(s) do you prefer working with? (circle all that apply)** ***Nursery Pre-K K-2 3-5 Jr. High Sr. High*** |
| **How would you like to help contribute to the FD program? *Please check those that are of interest******\_\_\_* Sunday Session Leader (facilitate children sessions on Sunday from 10:30am to 11:30am)****\_\_\_ Nursery Attendant Support (assist in the nursery)****\_\_\_ Adult Advisor for Teens (on Sundays and other times)****\_\_\_ Sexuality Education Program Coordinator (help schedule, organize, and prepare materials)****\_\_\_ Lead a song, read a book, lead a film discussion for children/teens during worship or in the faith development program,****\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| ***UUCLV-Faith Development Program has a commitment to creating a safe and caring environment. We provide guidelines to offer moral and legal safeguards for our church community. All volunteers working with children & youth at UUCLV will be screened by the faith development educator and/or minister. UUCLV performs a background check on all adults working with children and teens. No person shall be eligible to supervise children or youth who has a history of crimes involving children.*** |
| **I understand that the information that I have provided may be verified, if necessary. I agree to participate in an orientation and training session.****Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |