



All Souls Community Church of West Michigan

A Code of Ethics for UU Youth

Policy on Sexuality and Community

Sexuality is a healthy and important part of young people's lives. Conferences are an opportunity for youth to express themselves in healthy ways. Relationships which exclude the rest of the community detract from the community. All members of the community must respect each other's physical boundaries. Inappropriate behavior (i.e. sexual intercourse or sexual harassment) is not permitted. Advisors and UUA staff reserve the right to deem any behavior inappropriate. Parents/guardians are invited to discuss this policy with youth.

Code of Ethics for Adults

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

There are no more important areas of growth than those of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting youth in these areas of growth. Youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with young persons in their care; therefore, leaders will refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with youth which constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse. Leaders shall be informed of the code of ethics and agree to it before assuming their role. Anyone violating this code will be immediately removed from the community, and appropriate action will be taken, including any legally mandated reporting.

Code of Ethics for Youth In Leadership Positions

Youth in leadership positions are uniquely visible and influential in any conference community. They should recognize that power imbalances exist in their interactions with other conferees. Inappropriate sexual behavior is never acceptable; additionally, youth leaders should remain aware of the impact of their actions and behave accordingly. Youth who abuse their roles as leaders, consciously or not, can damage individuals and the community. Youth leaders are expected to use their influence in a positive manner.

Guidelines for Behavior While In Boston (for both youth *and* adults)

- Respect the policies and codes of ethics above, and the guidelines set by the UUA staff concerning all UUA facilities, including Pickett and Eliot Houses.
- No drugs, weapons, or alcohol.
- No pets.
- Do not leave the site without an advisor.
- Adults must remain in the role of advisor at all times.
- All participants must have a signed medical release.

I agree to these guidelines while on the church sponsored trip to _____.

Name

Signature

Date