

Adult Ministry Leader Agreement

Thank you for showing interest in serving as a volunteer in an area of Adult Ministries (Starting Point, Community Groups, etc.).

By stepping into a leadership role in one of our adult ministries, you are stepping into a position of authority. Our attendees will watch you closely and take what you say seriously. And we think it is a good thing. Leaders should be role models. The challenge is that being a role model is all-encompassing.

As a role model, your lifestyle is part of the equation. How you present yourself on Sunday should be consistent with who you are in various ministry roles during the remainder of the week.

In the past, that was all that needed to be said. There was consensus around what constituted consistency between a relationship with Jesus and life in general. As culture has change, however, there is a need to be more specific. The three issues that surface the most have to do with *sexual relationships, substance abuse, and social media*.

The last thing we want to do is put you in a position where you feel pressure to *teach, represent, or appear to give assent* to a view on one of these subjects that you do not personally embrace. So on these three subjects, here is what we expect volunteers to communicate and model:

REGARDING SEXUAL BEHAVIOR`

We believe the scripture teaches that sex was created by God as an expression of intimacy between a man and woman within the context of marriage. Volunteers who embrace lifestyles or behaviors that conflict with this teaching will eventually find themselves having to pretend to *be* something that they are not or *believing* something they don't. In an effort to protect you from a potentially awkward situation, we ask the following:

- If you are involved in a sexual relationship and are not married, we ask that you do not lead in adult ministries at this time.
- In the spirit of being a good role model, if you are single and living with a member of the opposite sex, we ask that you not lead at this time. We do not want to put you in the awkward position of having to explain your arraignment if members of your group ask to visit your home.
- If you are married and have recently been involved in a sexual relationship outside of your marriage, we ask that you do not lead at this time.
- If you are in a same sex relationship, we ask that you do not lead at this time.

- Our standards for personal purity extend to your regular viewing of pornographic materials. If that is a current area of struggle, we ask that you not lead until you are experiencing significant freedom in this area.

REGARDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

If you have a history of alcohol or drug abuse, this might be something God uses in a positive way to influence others to go in a different direction. If you feel that this is part of your journey, we would love to talk with you further. While we might disagree on the timing of your involvement, we don't want to miss an opportunity to partner with what God is up to in your life.

- If you have been arrested for or convicted of an alcohol or drug related offense in the past twelve months, we ask that you do not lead at this time.
- If you have used marijuana or any other illegal substance during the past twelve months, we ask that you not lead in Adult Ministries at this time.
- If consuming alcohol to the point of being unable to drive or to the point of being illegal for you to drive yourself home is a regular part of your weekend or weeknight routine, we ask that you not lead at this time.

REGARDING SOCIAL MEDIA

The people we lead judge the credibility of our message by the content of our lives. Substance abuse and sexual integrity are but two areas they'll watch; our financial stewardship, the way we engage with politics, our social media practices, how we treat our families, and the way we respond to crises are some of the things they'll notice.

The participants in your group or ministry *will* visit your Facebook page. If you blog or maintain a Twitter account, some in your group will opt to keep up with you through those mediums as well. While social media can be a great connection tool, it also serves as a window into your life beyond your ministry involvement. In light of that, we ask that you leverage social media with your ministry participants in mind. We realize this is a judgment call.

Thank you again for showing interest in leading in the area of Adult Ministries. After reading this agreement, if you have any questions regarding your specific situation or the requirements outlined in this document, please do not hesitate to contact us.