

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Phone _____

Acton Congregational Church 2010-2011 Sunday School Volunteer Teacher Covenant

12 Concord Road, Acton MA 01720 (978) 263-2728

Please complete both sides and return to Merrill Noble, Coordinator of Christian Education

As you respond to Christ's call to teach, Acton Congregational Church covenants with each teacher that:

The church and Sunday School leadership will:

- Pray and support teachers as a congregation
- Provide curriculum materials and supplies
- Provide training and support
- Provide leadership and resource persons
- Provide clean, furnished classrooms
- Provide support and help from pastor and staff
- Provide consistent and frequent communication
- Provide opportunities for personal Christian growth

The teacher will:

- Participate in a teaching team for entire year
- Pray for team teachers and students
- Spend time preparing and in prayer for the lesson
- Use curriculum approved by the CE Committee
- Know the children in his/her class; recognize needs
- Arrive in time to prepare classroom before worship
- Attend worship and participate in the life of ACC
- Stay current with Sunday School announcements
- Take advantage of opportunities for spiritual growth
- Attend Orientation and training events
- Read and agree to Sunday School Safe Church Policies
- Report abusive and inappropriate behavior

The congregation of Acton Congregational Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. The following policy statements reflect our congregation's commitment to preserving this church as a holy place of safety and protection for all who would enter and as a place in which all people can experience the love of God through relationships with others.

In the spirit of Safe Church, all teachers are required to have a Criminal Record Check. (CORI). Applications are updated every 3 years. Someone in the church office will contact you if a new application is necessary.

- No adult who has been convicted of child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse or emotional abuse) should volunteer to work with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity.
- Adults who volunteer with children and youth shall avoid being alone with a child/youth unless the adult volunteer is the parent of the child/youth.
- Adult volunteers are encouraged to attend at least one teacher training session provided by the church and to keep informed of relevant church policies.
- Adult volunteers shall immediately report to the Sunday School Superintendent, the Coordinator of Children's Christian Education or a minister, any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate.
- The church will comply with state and federal laws and all reporting requirements.
- Adult volunteers are strongly encouraged to become members of Acton Congregational Church.

2010-2011 Sunday School Volunteer Teacher Application

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ I attend worship at 8:45 10:45

Preferred Grade (or age) _____ I would like to co-teach with _____

Are you a member of Acton Congregational Church? Yes No

I have been worshipping regularly at ACC for: More than 3 years 1 to 3 years Less than 1 year*
* If you have been worshipping with ACC less than a year and/or are new to the area, please provide two references from people outside the church. These should not be family members.

What experiences do you have that would help you work with children? Parent Coach Teacher
Please specify _____

What specific gifts, talents or abilities do you bring to the Sunday School program at ACC? _____

Do you have any health issues that might affect your ability to teach Sunday School? Yes No
If yes, please specify _____

Please answer the following questions:

In the interest of providing a safe and secure environment for children and teachers, we are asking the following questions. Answering yes to any of these questions does not automatically exclude you from teaching, but raises an issue of concern. You should expect one of the ministers to contact you.

- Have you had any painful experiences in your life that may hinder you from a productive ministry with children? Yes No
- Do you use illegal drugs? Yes No
- Have you been hospitalized or treated for alcohol or substance abuse in the past five years? Yes No
- Have you ever been convicted or pleaded guilty to a criminal offense **excluding** minor traffic violations? Yes No
- Have you ever been charged, convicted or pleaded guilty to any sexually-related crime? Yes No
- Have you ever been charged, convicted or pleaded guilty to any abuse-related crime? Yes No
- Have you ever left a volunteer position or employment for reasons relating to allegations of sexual harassment, exploitation or misconduct, physical abuse or drug use? Yes No

By signing this application and covenant, I agree to avoid being alone with a child/youth unless I am the parent of the child/youth and I agree to observe and abide by all church policies regarding working in ministries with children and youth. The information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print name _____

CONFIDENTIAL

The information on this application is confidential and will not be shared beyond the ministers and the Coordinator of Children's Christian Education