

# CODE OF ETHICS

## ***For Adults Working with Children and/or Youth in Church Sponsored Programs***

Adults who are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering spiritual development of both individuals and the 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. Two important areas of growth include: self worth; and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual and spiritual being. Adults play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth. Children, youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with young persons in their care. Therefore, leaders must refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with children and youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with children or youth, which constitutes verbal, emotional or physical abuse.

## ***For Youth Working with Children and/or Youth in Church Sponsored Programs***

Youth who are in leadership roles are also in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering spiritual development of their peers or younger children/youth. It is, therefore, especially important for youth in leadership positions to understand the special position that they are taking. As with adults, youth need 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 children/youth and their leaders must be one of mutual respect. Two important areas of growth include: self worth; and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual and spiritual being. As a youth in a leadership position you will play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth in exactly the same manner that an adult would. Everyone suffers damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with peers or younger persons in their care. Therefore, leaders must refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with children and youth peers. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with children, youth or adults, which constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse.

## ***Religious Education Volunteer Statement:***

I have read and understand the above Code of Ethics, as well as FUSF's Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy and agree to it.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_