

CHBC Student and Parent Ministry Covenant

The members of Capitol Hill Baptist Church (CHBC) want to express our love for our teenagers and our church. The Student Ministry of Capitol Hill Baptist Church is not considered baby-sitting; the Student Ministry and our teenagers are a vital part of the church as a whole. We understand that God has given parents the primary responsibility for the spiritual, emotional and physical nurturing of our teenagers. Parents are to be their teenagers' primary model, teacher and counselor (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). The church is committed to encouraging and equipping parents in this endeavor.

The church believes that every event on the student schedule should have a purpose: to equip and challenge teenagers to follow God and serve Him with all of their lives. We believe that our Student Ministry has several priorities: sharing Jesus Christ with lost students and parents, teaching the Bible, equipping students to live a consistent Christian walk, providing hands on mission opportunities, providing significant role models from student workers and staff, and providing a place of positive peer influence for teenagers.

With these beliefs, we have created this Student and Parent Ministry Covenant to provide structure for a learning and loving environment for all participants in every event. As partners with the staff, we set forth the following covenant for our Student Ministry.

I. Behavior Expectations of Our Students While On Grounds and Away

Worship, teaching and fellowship times are for every student and leader to learn and grow. Parents have the ultimate responsibility for disciplining their own child, but we agree that student ministry staff and workers have the authority to maintain an atmosphere that is conducive to worship, teaching and fellowship. Basic rules of behavior including respect, safety, honesty, polite speech, cooperation, and decency should be observed at all church events.

If an attendee at any church event on grounds is distracting to others and/or inhibits the participation of others by their behavior and will not respond to normal common sense means of discipline, then the student will be discretely asked to leave the event with two sponsors. When a student is asked to leave an event with a sponsor, the sponsor should notify another sponsor of what has happened and both sponsors should sit with the student until the scheduled conclusion of the event. If possible, sponsors should always go to a quiet place where there is enough traffic to avoid any appearance of wrong-doing.

Whenever possible, if a student has been dismissed for a significant behavior problem, the parent/guardian should be notified. If the misbehavior happens in a worship service or in a place where the parents/guardians are able to be contacted, the parents/guardians should intervene instead of the student ministry worker. But, student ministry staff and sponsors should know they have the permission of the parents/guardians to take action to protect the learning and participation of other students. The student ministry worker should also do their best to minister to the student. If the behavior persists during the next scheduled student event the Associate

Pastor to Students and Families can ask the student not to attend the next event to protect the learning of others.

Participants who attend trips away from the grounds of CHBC should understand that every student must observe all guidelines for the trip and respect the sponsors, who have donated their time and finances. On all trips, the Associate Pastor to Students and Families is expected to oversee the event in the safest manner possible and to be the final authority in all discipline. The parents/guardians agree that all discipline issued on a trip is a result of the knowledge of the facts at that moment and will be carried out according to the discipline guidelines presented in this document in the most redemptive manner possible. As parents, we agree to support the decisions of the student ministry leadership, understanding they are providing boundaries and love for all participants.

Since the options for discipline can appear limited or vary greatly depending on the sponsor, the following progression of discipline is recommended for all student events including trips away from church grounds: (1) warning, when possible (2) separation from the group or cancellation of free time, then (3) being sent home at the parents' expense. The Associate Pastor of Students and Families has the prerogative to send a student home on the first offense if the violation warrants immediate dismissal, such as illegal drug possession, alcohol, tobacco of any kind, weapons, sexual activity, fighting, excessive violation of the curfew or other extreme behavior at the discretion of the Associate Pastor of Students and Families. If it becomes known that any person at any church activity has a weapon or illegal substance, the Associate Pastor of Students and Families has the right and responsibility to contact the police to address the issue immediately.

The Associate Pastor of Students and Families alone has the authority to send a student or sponsor home for violation of the guidelines, but any sponsor can warn and take away free time and/or separate a student from the group. Physical discipline is not appropriate for sponsors or student ministry staff, and physical intervention is limited to breaking up a fight or in an extreme case where physical restraint would be appropriate.

When a student is disciplined, all the events should be documented in writing by the sponsors involved, so the situation can be explained to the parent when the group returns to the church. Parents should be contacted about discipline with their child whenever it occurs and the Associate Pastor of Students and Families should be informed during every stage of discipline, if he is not already directly involved.

A. Physical Affection

Students should limit showing affection during student ministry activities. Modesty and decency is the standard guideline for a student in public or private during church related activities. Discipline is appropriate, according to above guidelines, for a violation of the rules dealing with physical affection.

B. Location of Students During Church Events

Students should stay within the designated area for a student activity during the entire time of the event. The church should not be responsible for a student who walks away from the church property or designated area in violation of the guideline of staying within the boundaries of the event. Parents should pick up students within 20 minutes of the conclusion of any event, at the location of the event.

C. Respect Toward Leadership and Guidelines

Students who attend CHBC student activities should show respect for leaders, sponsors, parents, staff and rules as a condition for remaining at any activity (Colossians 3:22-24).

D. Speech

The student and student leadership at Capitol Hill Baptist Church seek to be an example as set forth in I Tim 4:12. We understand that “out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks,” Matthew 12:34. Thus, we seek to purify our hearts with God’s word (Psalm 199:11). We, therefore, commit to Ephesians 4:29, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.”

E. Media

All movies shown at CHBC student activities will have prior approval from the Associate Pastor of Students and Families. R-rated movies are prohibited, remembering that regardless of the rating all movies must have prior approval by submitting a request form to the Associate Pastor of Students and Families. The following websites are some of the sites available to review a movie before submitting a request for approval: www.pluggedinonline.com, www.screenit.com, <http://entertainment.planetwisdom.com/movies/index.cfm>, www.crosswalk.com, www.christiananswers.net/spotlight/movies/home.html, www.christiancritic.com, and www.gospelcom.net/preview; Student sponsors will attempt to supervise appropriate usage of mobile media devices. Inappropriate behavior with such devices may result in the device being taken away for the duration of the activity, event or trip. Christian music will be played on church vehicles, including sponsors’ vehicles that are transporting students, and/or during church events. The members of CHBC Student Ministry seek to live a life above reproach and be lovers of God and not of the world (I John 2:15-16).

F. Student Driving

When the church provides transportation, students are expected to ride on a church vehicle or with an approved adult. When extenuating circumstances arise, students may submit a written request, which must be signed by a parent/guardian, prior to the event.

G. Dress Code

The church is a unique and distinctive social setting. Capitol Hill Baptist Church's Student Ministry believes that a Christian's appearance and attire is a demonstrative part of his/her testimony and should reflect Biblical standards, at all times be pleasing to God and uncompromising of our Christian values (I Corinthians 10:31-33). Students' behavior and dress reflect the philosophy and standards of the church they represent. The church wishes to convey through its student body, a message of unity, modesty, and obedience to God's word. Likewise, student leaders shall be instructed to demonstrate by example positive attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance. If a student or student worker is wearing a piece of apparel that is distracting to the teaching of the word of God, the student will be asked to change.

In the limited cases where a swimming suit would be appropriate for the setting: Female students may wear a one-piece suit, or a two-piece suit designed to adequately cover the back, side, and mid-drift, or wear a dark colored t-shirt over a two-piece suit; male students must wear a t-shirt with their swimsuit if swimming in an area where there are members of the opposite gender; the t-shirt may be sleeveless if it is not split down the sides (only the shoulder and arm may be visible); this type of sleeveless shirt is the only type deemed appropriate in any setting where members of the opposite gender would be present.

Students should wear appropriately modest and God-glorifying clothing. No low-cut or short shirts, excessively tight or short clothing, or clothing with inappropriate graphics or text are allowed.

In Sunday School classes and other gender divided settings student ministry teachers will address the purpose and need for modesty and decency with a desire to help each student understand ways to assist their brothers and sisters in Christ in guarding the purity of the heart.

Youth sponsors will use a proper amount of grace when a student is a visitor, especially one who does not have a relationship with Christ.

II. Sunday School Teacher Expectations

The teacher is responsible for leading people toward faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and guiding them to serve Him through evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship. In pursuing that mission, a teacher understands that teaching moves beyond the Bible study session into the daily lives of the students. A teacher looks for opportunities to mentor students before and after Bible study sessions. The teacher helps to ensure that a positive ministry environment

is provided during the session, one that facilitates the work of the Holy Spirit. The teacher invests himself/herself in building positive relationships with participants, and involves the learners in meaningful Bible study. The teacher utilizes a variety of approaches to presenting material, which addresses a variety of learning styles and discovery learning. The teacher's primary responsibilities include: 1) meet regularly with leadership team, 2) lead a small group in meaningful Bible study, 3) build positive relationships with students and prospects and ensure that they are contacted regularly in order to meet needs, 4) lead students toward faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to become on-mission Christians, 5) plan regular times of fellowship which foster relationships and outreach opportunities, 6) set a positive example for others by living as an authentic witness and being thoroughly involved in the life and ministry of the church. (This excerpt was taken from pages 96 and 97 of Hemphill, K. & Taylor, B. (2001). Ten best practices. Lifeway Press, Nashville, TN.

III. Sponsor Expectations

Sponsors are given a tremendous amount of trust by the parents of the teenagers they serve. As parents, we are grateful to the many adults who give their time and wisdom to our children. However, we expect sponsors to exemplify Christian integrity in all manner of behavior and speech. All sponsors must be growing Christians who are good role models for the students in their family, private and public life. Their doctrine should be consistent with the standard belief of the church as a whole at CHBC. Sponsors are expected to follow all guidelines (including Child Safety and Security Guidelines), complete a background check, and honor the Associate Pastor of Students and Families as the leader during all trips and youth activities. Sponsors should keep the Associate Pastor of Students and Families informed about discipline, counseling needs, concerns with students, etc. Sponsors must be willing to be "on duty" during the entire time of every event on the church grounds or off grounds. Likewise, sponsors are expected to remain at the event until every student has left. Sponsors should also follow the parent's guideline of discipline discussed in this document. Sponsors should remain with the group at all times. When driving, sponsors should ensure that all students remain in their seats and are wearing seatbelts.

III. Associate Pastor of Students and Families Expectation

The Associate Pastor of Students and Families is expected to serve with the sponsors and parents to challenge students of all races, ages and backgrounds to follow Jesus Christ fully in their life. The Associate Pastor of Students and Families must have the highest level of integrity in all manner of behavior and speech in his family, public and private life. The Associate Pastor of Students and Families should be a growing Christian who is a good model for the students of CHBC. His doctrine should be consistent with the standard of belief of the church as a whole at Capitol Baptist Church.

The Associate Pastor of Students and Families has the responsibility as the "final word" on discipline during all youth events. The Associate Pastor of Students and Families is also

expected to design a ministry that gives a balanced approach to equipping teenagers for a full life with Christ. As parents, we ask to be involved in events and planning as often as possible. We are willing to give time and support to the student ministry whenever asked. The Associate Pastor of Students and Families is also expected to be attentive to the financial constraints of family budgets and to plan student events with a consideration of cost. As parents, we agree to support our Associate Pastor of Students and Families to our children and peers. If there ever is a problem or question, we agree to use Matthew 18:15-17 as our guide to resolve any conflict.

Student and Parent Agreement

We, as a student and parent(s), have read and understand the Covenant for Student Ministry at Capitol Hill Baptist Church.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____

Student Leader Agreement

I, as a student leader, have read and understand the Covenant for Student Ministry at Capitol Hill Baptist Church.

Signature

Date