

## Great Lakes Youth Retreat **ADULT HEART AGREEMENTS**

*By choosing to attend this regional event, I agree to do my part to help create a fulfilling spiritual experience for all. I understand that my choices affect both my own experience as well as others'. My commitment is to support an environment that creates opportunities for spiritual self-discovery and maintains everyone's physical & emotional safety.*

1. I have read & understand Sponsor & Youth Agreements and have discussed them in detail with my chapter.
2. I understand both youth and Sponsors are responsible for their choices and behavior and if their conduct is detrimental to the spirit or intent of the event, they may be prohibited from continuing to participate, possibly sent home and may not be eligible to attend the next event.
3. I will prepare myself for all activities and events through prayerful meditation and study. Unless otherwise authorized by event leaders, I will arrive during the designated check-in time and stay through event closing; and I will attend and participate as a sponsor/leader at all scheduled activities. ***If I am unable to fulfill my event responsibilities, I will notify staff of my situation and ensure my responsibilities will be covered by others.***
4. I understand that I am there to facilitate the teens' experience. I am not there to be one of them, serve as their parent or 'fix' anyone. Nor will I use the youth for my own support. Rather I will seek out a minister or my peers for advice and counseling on personal matters.
5. I will adhere to all Region policies, event agreements and state laws. I will work in harmony with the Event Leader and Event Staff, fellow leaders/sponsors and minister(s). Should I disagree with their plans, decisions or leadership style, I will address the issue directly with them. ***I will promptly report any agreement violation or medical situation to event staff and will discuss any concerns about a fellow sponsor's/leader's decision or conduct with the Event Leader.***
6. I will not be a part of character assassinations, put-downs or judgments of other people. I will use appropriate language and look for ways to create a special experience for myself and others.
7. I will teach Unity Truth principles, and help youth understand their own beliefs. I will be honest with youth about my spiritual questions and perceptions, but I will not preach my own personal value system. *I will let others know that my beliefs come from my own spiritual awareness. I will make sure they understand I am not telling them what to think. I will encourage youth to explore why they feel as they do, and to recognize that spiritual awareness is an unfolding process.*
8. I will respect parent/guardian authority in matters relating to their child. Without taking sides about problems youth may be having, I will support youth and parents/guardians in exploring their perceptions and choices. *This does not mean I will avoid being there for youth when they need to talk. I will support the efforts of everyone in the group to discover how they can apply Truth Principles to situations that challenge them. I will do my best to help youth recognize the impact of their choices, but I will not take on their problems to solve.*
9. I will respect a youth's expectation of confidentiality when sharing, but I will not take on the responsibility of keeping a secret that should be shared with their minister, parent/guardian or child welfare agency. I will make sure youth understand my obligation to report any threat of physical harm to oneself or others. I will immediately discuss any suspicion of abuse or suicidal tendencies, or requests for help processing overwhelming situations, with the Event Staff &/or minister. *If I am concerned about a youth's behavioral choices (e.g., use of controlled substances) or life challenges, I will discuss such matters FIRST with the Event Leader.*
10. I will honor risk-management guidelines and be above reproach in my behaviors with teens and other adult leaders. I will maintain appropriate physical boundaries and avoid compromising situations. I will:
  - *not tell offensive jokes or sexual innuendoes, nor discuss my own sexual experiences with youth*
  - *not prolong hugs, return a kiss or pull youth close to my body. I will not touch anyone on the genitals, breasts or buttocks (which includes not allowing a youth to sit on my lap).*
  - *not share a bed with a child not my own.*
  - *not pursue a romantic or intimate relationship with a student or another adult and remember that others may not always interpret my intentions accurately. I will abstain from all sexual activity during a youth event and honor the personal boundaries of others.*
  - *not possess or use alcohol, marijuana or illegal drugs at any event. Smoking is not allowed at Regional youth events.*

I have read, understand and agree to comply with these guidelines. I will contact the Event Leader if I am unclear about a guideline or its application to a situation.