

# Mission Team Covenant

## First United Methodist Church of Lakeland, Florida

### As a member of this team I agree to:

- Remember that I am representing First United Methodist Church of Lakeland and, more importantly, Jesus Christ. I will seek to model Jesus in my behavior and attitude.
- Be in prayer for my teammates, team leaders and for those with whom we will be in contact.
- Remember that I am a guest visiting at the invitation of my hosts. I will respect their culture without judgment.
- Remember that I have come to learn as well as to share. I will resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things." I'll be open to learning about other people's methods and ideas.
- Respect others' view of Christianity in the context of their culture. I recognize that Christianity has many faces around the world, and that the purpose of this trip is to share the love of God and to experience faith lived out in a new setting.
- Dress modestly, and to only bring luggage and possessions that are determined by the Mission Trip Leader to be appropriate for the service needs of the mission and the country's culture.
- Develop/maintain a servant's attitude toward all nationals and my teammates. I will demonstrate that I am there to serve others and share Christ, while learning and developing relationships.
- Respect the thoughts/ideas of my hosts and team members. I will not dominate conversations or interrupt others when they speak, and will be patient and respectful of differing opinions.
- Respect my team leader(s) and respond positively to his/her decisions. If conflict arises, I will work with my trip leader to resolve it.
- Refrain from criticism and gossip about our host(s) and my teammates.
- Refrain from complaining, as I recognize that travel can present unexpected and undesirable circumstances; instead of complaining, I will be flexible, constructive, and supportive.
- Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships and make every effort to interact with all team members.
- Refrain from any activity that could be construed as a special or romantic interest in a national or teammate.
- Abstain from the use, purchase and possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and illegal drugs from the beginning of the trip to the end, including at the departure airports and en route.
- Watch my language, refrain from discussing politics or other sensitive subjects, and avoid references to the military and to other religious groups or practices.
- Refrain from teaching/practicing any belief that is not supported by the United Methodist Church.
- Attend any mandatory mission team meetings/trainings before the trip as well as follow-up meetings after we return.
- Participate actively in meetings as well as in mission, through sharing opinions, assisting in finding alternatives when necessary, assuming responsibilities and honoring decisions.
- Keep confidential discussions and personal information shared among team members.
- Remember that I can be sent home if there is an irresolvable conflict or lack of adherence to this Covenant.

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_