

Group Covenant for the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering

(This "group covenant" must be signed and brought to New Orleans. This is in addition to any covenants you may develop for yourself as a congregational group.)

1) Being safe on the streets of New Orleans

Our group will:

- Always travel in groups of at least 3-4 persons, with an adult leader.
- Not hesitate to approach a police officer, security officer, or Gathering volunteer for help.
- Designate a pre-arranged meeting spot in case someone is separated from the group.
- Carry photo identification at all times. (A designated adult will also carry a copy of each participant's medical release form.)
- Wear proper footwear at all times. (Sandals or open-toed footwear is not recommended.)
- Have a basic first aid kit available for our group.
- Notify the New Orleans Police Department (**911**) and the Gathering Information Line at **1-888-411-3522** of any crime or emergency. (The Gathering Information Line is accessible 24/7 during MYLE, DAYLE, and the Gathering.)

2) Curfew

Our group will:

- Follow the curfew laws of the City of New Orleans:
A minor (under the age of 17) shall not remain in a public place or on the premises of an establishment without being accompanied by a parent, guardian or designated adult from:
 - 9:00pm until 6:00am of the following day on any Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.
 - 11:00pm until 6:00am of the following day on any Friday or Saturday.
- Make sure that adult leaders accompany our group in the evening when traveling back to hotels, since Gathering activities end later than these curfew hours.
- Follow additional curfews in the Gathering schedule.

3) Safety and behavior inside the Louisiana Superdome

Our group understands and will follow these rules for the Superdome:

- For safety and security reasons, all backpacks, bags, containers, purses, etc., may be inspected prior to being admitted into the Superdome.
- The following are not allowed in the Superdome:
 - Laser pointers, glass containers, any type of weapon, or anything that poses a safety or health risk.
 - Joking about weapons, violent acts, or terrorism.
 - "Mosh Pits" and "Body Surfing" are strictly prohibited.
 - Open flames (lighters, candles, matches, etc.).
 - Throwing items such as beach balls, toilet paper, coins, Frisbees, etc.
 - Flags or banners on sticks or poles (including state flags).
 - Banners, signs, or clothing that promoting particular issues are. Clothing with messages or graphics that are racist, sexually suggestive, sexist, violent, profane, or encourage the use of drugs or alcohol are not appropriate in any venue.
 - Saving individual or blocks of seats.
 - Texting or talking on cell phones during programs. (Turn them off.)
 - Soft drinks and food. (Snacks and drinks will be available outside the Superdome prior to the evening program.)
- Before entering the Superdome, we will have a general plan of where our group will sit, in case someone gets separated. To avoid injuries, we will refrain from running or pushing when the doors open.
- We will designate a pre-arranged meeting place for our group to meet after the program.

4) Community witness

- We will exemplify in our actions and words the humility, compassion, respect, graciousness, and justice that Jesus exemplifies and encourages of us.
- We will treat with respect the staff of our hotel, the wait-staff at restaurants, business employees, and people we meet on the street. We will remember to leave fair tips. (Including tips for each room's housekeeping staff at the end of our stay.)
- We will look out for the wellbeing and safety of all youth and adults, including those who are not in our group. If we notice someone in need or experiencing a problem, we will respond appropriately, and notify, if necessary, the New Orleans Police Department (**911**) and the Gathering Information Line at **1-888-411-3522**.

In order to make our Gathering experience a safe, positive, and meaningful experience for all, we, the youth and adults of _____ congregation, covenant to abide by the behavior guidelines established by the ELCA Youth Gathering.

In the event that someone breaks our covenant, we will address it in the following way(s):

Participant signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

(Bring a photocopy of each participant's signed Group Covenant with you.)