

# Youth Communication Consent Form

Optional for Youth (Grades 6th-12th) | Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_



## Instructions:

Trinity's updated Protection Policy (2024) includes a new Digital Communication Policy. It states that Trinity Staff and Authorized Volunteers will not contact children (grades 5th & under) directly via any digital medium. All digital communication with children will be through their grown-ups. For youth (grades 6th to 12th), parents or guardians and their youth are required to complete this Youth Communication Consent Form that grants Trinity permission to contact youth directly before youth may be contacted via phone, email, instant messaging apps like Remind, or social media.

If you would like Trinity to be able to communicate digitally with your youth, please complete this form and submit it along with this Children & Youth Registration Form to Laura Johns (Director of Discipleship) at [L.Johns@grtunc.org](mailto:L.Johns@grtunc.org) or to other applicable Trinity Program Staff.

## For Parent / Guardian to Complete:

Youth's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

We, the parents/guardians the child/youth listed above, understand that Trinity United Methodist Church desires to promote safety and to create a healthy environment for smartphones, instant messaging apps, texting, and other forms of digital communication between its volunteers, staff, and students who participate in activities where children, youth, and vulnerable adults are involved. As such, a Digital Communication Policy is included in our Protection Policy (pages 14-15).

## Please Initial Each Line Below:

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we have reviewed Trinity's Digital Communications Policy and agree to observe and abide by the policies set forth in it.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we understand that employees of Trinity, volunteers, and program participants are not to transmit any content that is illicit, unsavory, abusive, pornographic, discriminatory, harassing, or disrespectful when communicating with each other or with minors involved in ministry activities.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we understand that Trinity staff and authorized volunteers are not to communicate with youth via electronic devices on a one-on-one basis. All communication with youth will include either a parent of the youth, be a part of a group message including at least one other unrelated staff member, or take place in a public venue. The only exception to above guideline is for counseling/mentoring relationships, in which case a One-on-One Interaction with a Vulnerable Person Consent Form should be completed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we understand that Trinity cannot guarantee that all minors participating in youth activities will abide by the policy's terms. However, Trinity will seek to enforce the policy's terms to the best of its ability.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that any person who violates Trinity's Digital Communication Policy may lose electronic communications privileges.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## For Youth to Complete:

Youth's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that Trinity United Methodist Church is committed to creating a safe environment for all youth. This includes promoting a healthy environment for smartphones, instant messaging apps, texting, and other forms of digital communication between volunteers, staff, and youth who participate in activities. As a result, Trinity has developed guidelines found in our Digital Communication Policy.

### Youth Participation in Digital Communication Is Optional.

You do not have to opt into any digital messages from Trinity to have the full Trinity Youth Group experience. If you would like to participate, you need to know that:

1. Cellphone usage during program activities is to be determined by the leaders of the event. Youth participating in said events must adhere to the direction given by its leaders.
2. When communicating with adult leaders, staff, volunteer, or other youth involved in programming at Trinity, or posting content to websites that Trinity controls, several conditions apply.
  - a. No one is to make comments or share images that are illicit, unsavory, abusive, pornographic, discriminatory, or disrespectful. Harassment and bullying are strictly forbidden.
  - b. Trinity staff and authorized volunteers are not to communicate with youth via electronic devices on a one-on-one basis. All communication with youth will include either a parent of the youth, be a part of a group message including at least one other unrelated staff member, or take place in a public venue. The only exception to above guideline is for counseling/mentoring relationships, in which case a One-on-One Interaction with a Vulnerable Person Consent Form should be completed by your parent/guardian.
  - c. Those who violate Trinity's Digital Communication Policy may lose electronic communications privileges or be removed from the youth ministry program.

**I understand and agree to the terms of the policy and the guidelines listed above.**

Youth Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

