



AFO Church Ministry Agreement

At AFO Church, we are drawn to God's command to make disciples who make disciples. We believe this is best accomplished through relationships with others in our faith family that is fashioned around our relationship with God and His word.

We pray you are considering joining our AFO faith family through membership. Part of your desire to join AFO Church sets the expectation that you are willing to commit to serve in one or more of our ministry areas. We have many different areas where you can serve and will be happy to point you to the right ministry leader to discuss your place of service.

It is our desire at AFO Church for our volunteers to teach and represent Christ-like traits. Your lifestyle is part of the equation. Our end goal is not legalism, but to be servants of God that exhibit a life under grace. We desire to attempt to live a Spirit filled life and not be conformed to the sin patterns of this world. While we all recognize that we all fall short, we should intentionally seek to wake each morning with the desire for our lives to be pleasing to God.

As you desire to serve our God in ministry opportunities, how you present yourself on Sunday should be consistent with who you are in the various ministry roles during the remainder of the week. There is a stark difference in a Christian who sometimes falls into sin and quickly gets back up, and a person who habitually plans to walk in an area of sin on a repeated basis.

In the past, that was all that needed to be said regarding our commitment to serving the body of Christ. There was a consensus around what constituted consistency between a relationship with Jesus and life in general. As culture has changed, however, there is a need to be more specific.

The three issues that surface the most have to do with *sexual relationships, substance abuse and social media*. While God does not "rate sin", the last thing we want to do is put you in a position where you feel pressure to *teach, represent, or appear to give assent* to a view on one of these subjects that you do not personally embrace. So on these three subjects, here is what we expect AFO volunteers to communicate and model:

Regarding Sexual Behavior

We believe that the scripture teaches that sex was created by God as an expression of intimacy between a man and a woman within the context of marriage. Volunteers who embrace lifestyles or behaviors that conflict with this teaching will eventually find themselves having to pretend to *be* something they are not or *believing* something they don't. In an effort to protect you from a potentially awkward situation, we ask the following:

1. If you are involved in a sexual relationship and are not married, we ask that you not participate in a ministry program at this time.
2. In the spirit of being a good role model, if you are single and living with a member of the opposite sex, we ask that you not participate at this time. We do not want to put you in an awkward position of having to explain your arrangement if someone asks to visit your home.
3. If you are involved in a sexual relationship with a person of the same gender, we ask that you not participate at this time.
4. If you are married and have recently been involved in a sexual relationship outside of your marriage, we ask that you allow your marriage the appropriate time of healing before volunteering in ministry opportunities.
5. If you are married and are experiencing any serious issues within your marriage for whatever reason, we ask that you concentrate on your marriage relationship and not participate at this time.
6. Our standards for personal purity extend to your regular viewing of pornographic materials. If that is a current area of struggle, we ask that you do not participate in ministry until you are experiencing significant freedom in this area.

Regarding Substance Abuse

1. If you have been arrested for or convicted of an alcohol or drug related offense in the past 12 months, we ask that you not participate in AFO ministry at this time.
2. If you have used any illegal substances recently, we ask that you do not participate until you are experiencing freedom from use in this area.
3. If consuming alcohol to the point of being unable to drive or to the point of being illegal for you to drive yourself home is a regular part of your weekend or weekday/night routine, we ask that you not participate in ministry at this time.

Regarding Social Media

The people that know we are serving in areas of ministry volunteerism judge the credibility of our message by the content of our lives. Substance abuse and sexual integrity are but two areas they'll watch; our financial stewardship, the way we engage with politics, our social media practices, how we treat our families and the way we respond to crises are some of the things they will notice.

The participants in the ministry WILL visit your social media pages. While social media can be a great connection tool, it also serves as a window into your life beyond this ministry involvement. In light of that, we ask that you leverage social media with your ministry associates. We realize that this is a judgment call.

If you have any questions regarding your specific situation and the requirements outlined in this document, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I, _____ agree to the aforementioned requirements in this document and will adhere to the expectations set forth.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

