



## Gathering Youth Permission Form

Sept. 5, 2023 – Sept 30, 2024

Student First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (day/month/year): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Instagram (yes/no): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Family Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Other medications/needs: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We give consent for (name of minor) \_\_\_\_\_ to attend any Youth ministry event being sponsored by The Gathering Church. In the event he/she is injured while under the care of The Gathering Church and its representatives and requires the attention of a doctor, I hereby consent to and will be responsible for any medical treatment as deemed necessary by a licensed physician. I/We further agree to hold the licensed physician, the medical facility, The Gathering Church and its representatives free and harmless from any claims, demands or suits for damages arising from the authorization and provision of such medical treatment. I/We understand the nature of the event and do hereby release The Gathering Church and its representatives from any liability due to accident or injury incurred on or by the aforementioned minor. I/We agree to cover all costs if my/our minor needs to be sent home from events for disciplinary reasons. I/We understand that my/our minor may be traveling in vans, cars and/or buses for events. I/We give consent for our child's image, name, and/or church work to be used in media coverage of church related events, in church, in The Gathering publications, or on The Gathering website and social media pages.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Representatives of The Gathering Church will take every possible safety precaution and possible means to contact parent/guardian(s) in the event of injury or other emergency.

**Online Youth Leader/Youth interactions (Personal accounts/numbers) – On next page**



While we recognize that we are living in an increasingly digital age, and that youth almost exclusively communicate via text and/or social media, ministry personnel need to exercise caution when/if they interact with youth on social media platforms.

Communicating with youth via text and/or social media is permitted under the following conditions:

1. Parents/Guardians are aware and have given written permission (by signing Youth Permission form).
2. Youth are informed that messages may be shared with parents/guardians and pastoral staff of the church for accountability and liability purposes.
3. No photographs of youth will be taken without approval. No photographs of youth will be printed or posted online without prior approval (See Youth Permission Form).
4. Interactions will not involve video messaging (Facetime, etc.), unless it is for ministry training, a group conference call, or if it is approved by parent/guardian and a member of the pastoral staff.
5. Personnel will not interact with youth using any social media platform where records of messages cannot be kept (e.g. Snapchat).
6. It is strongly recommended that text/social media interactions be for the purposes of communication, rather than significant conversation. Examples could include, "Are you coming to the youth event next week?" or, "Hey, we missed you at youth last night. Hope to see you next week."
7. If interactions move toward conversations of a sensitive or personal nature, it is strongly recommended that personnel plan an in-person meeting with the youth. Examples could include, "I heard you broke up with your boyfriend. Do you want to talk in person about it?" Or, "Your Mom told me your Grandpa died. I am so sorry. Do you want to go for coffee and chat?"

\*As part of the parameters set by the church, youth volunteers are required to inform the ministry leader of any significant online conversations (including providing screenshots if necessary), prohibited from deleting any messages from conversations with youth, and required to provide access to conversation history with any youth when requested.

### **Online Interactions (Church accounts)**

Currently, our church uses the following social media platforms: YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram.

Interactions with youth from church accounts will be for the purposes of promoting church events (including sending reminders to attend), short notes of encouragement (e.g. "Let's continue to pray for everyone during exams."), and to arrange in-person meetings. Ministry personnel will refrain from using church accounts for relationship-building or providing counselling to youth.

### **Parent/Guardian Statement**

I have read and understood the Gathering Youth Leader policies relating to interactions with youth online. By signing below, I hereby give my permission for my child(ren) to interact with ministry personnel as outlined in those policies.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_