**October 26, 2026, rev.1**

# OFFENDER POLICY AND AGREEMENT
# CAPE COD CHURCH OF CHRIST

It is the spiritual, moral, and legal responsibility of the Cape Cod Church of Christ and its leadership to take reasonable steps to provide a safe environment for church members and visitors in regards to inappropriate sexual behaviors/advances during church activities. These church activities include regularly scheduled worship, bible study, small group, ministry and fellowship events as well as less formal social activities. While we desire to afford a spiritual ministry to sexual offenders, it is imperative that our church take reasonable steps to provide all of our members and guests a safe and secure environment while on church premises or while participating in church activities.

We believe that spiritual health is attainable for all individuals that submit to God's will and our hope and prayer is that we will all *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* (2 Peter 3:18). As long as a person with a history of one or more sexual offenses remains honest and committed to God and to others, this congregation will encourage him or her to move toward treatment and recovery and will commit its encouragement and spiritual support as they continue.

In addition, the leadership of this church is committed to identifying, approving, and providing a network of individuals who will hold the convicted sex offender accountable as he/she grows in a relationship with Jesus Christ. This network will include the elders, ministers, and assigned Accountability Partner(s).

If a member or visitor has been convicted of sexual misconduct that member or visitor must immediately upon first arrival contact the church leadership (elders, deacons, or evangelist ) for assistance. Once notified, members of Church Leadership will meet with the member or visitor to discuss the sexual misconduct and status of the offense. The member or visitor will sign the Offender Authorization to Obtain and Disseminate Confidential Information.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CONTACT**: An elder or minister of the Cape Cod Church of Christ.

## This policy contains the following documents.

1. **Offender Authorization to Obtain and Disseminate Confidential Information**
2. **Offender Agreement**
3. **Accountability Partner Requirements**

# Offender Authorization to Obtain and Disseminate Confidential Information

I, _____authorize the church leadership (elders, deacons, and evangelist) (hereinafter referred to as "Leaders") of the Cape Cod Church of Christ (hereinafter referred to as "Church") to obtain information from the State of Massachusetts , its assigned parole staff, and counseling staff assigned and/or approved by the State or personally retained by me and make necessary contacts to determine my sex offender status and restrictions. I further state such requests will not invade any confidentiality and/or privacy rights I may have and I expressly waive any privacy rights or confidentiality. Additionally, I expressly authorize Church Leadership to reasonably disseminate any and all information it learns directly and/or indirectly from me and/or from documents and contacts I have authorized the Church and Leaders to obtain and/or review to give effect to this Agreement. This authorization permits Church Leaders to provide copies of this signed document and the mutually executed Offender Agreement to applicable State authorities and counseling staff retained by the State or by me. Furthermore, I waive the right to sue the aforementioned references for releasing such requested information. I understand the sole purpose of this Authorization is to assist me with my transition into congregational worship and fellowship without violation of sex offender parole restrictions and additional restrictions necessary to protect and promote my personal safety and the safety of others. This Authorization is valid for one year from the date of my signature or until I revoke the Authorization in writing, except that the revocation will not have any effect on any information obtained before receiving my written notice of revocation. I further understand that if I revoke the Authorization I will be prohibited from attending Church related activities.

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING AUTHORIZATION AND KNOW THE CONTENTS THEREOF AND I SIGN THIS RELEASE AS MY OWN FREE ACT**. The information I have supplied is true and correct. A facsimile or photocopy of this Authorization shall be as valid as the original

_____ _____

SIGNATURE DATE

_____ _____

WITNESS SIGNATURE DATE

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# Offender Agreement

The Cape Cod Church of Christ (hereinafter referred to as "Church") desires to encourage people to embrace and follow God's will and to provide opportunities for worship and spiritual growth. For the benefit and protection of all people the Church requires those persons who are required under any State or Federal Statute, Rule, or Regulation or any Court Order to register as a sex offender with any court, any government entity, agency, department and/or any law enforcement agency and/or department in order to enter into this Agreement. For the purposes of this Agreement, said persons are hereinafter referred to as "offenders." Because the Church must also consider the safety of others who participate in services and Church activities, the Church requires sex offenders to agree to certain terms in order to attend worship services and other church related activities and to receive consideration for other ministry opportunities.

Offenders are required to enter into this Agreement before attending any worship services and/or receiving or participating in any other ministry opportunities or Church activities of any kind. In addition the Offenders are required to provide Church Leadership a copy of State of Massachusetts Parole Documents and Restrictions. The terms are established at an initial meeting between the individual offender and members of the Leadership of the Church. The offender's probation officer/counselor may be invited to attend as well.
The terms will be reviewed by members of the Church Leadership and the offender at approximately six-month intervals to determine if changes should be made. The probationary officer or counselor may be invited to participate in the review process.

Following are the terms. All must be initialed by the Offender and by members of Church Leadership .

I, _____, agree to the following:
(Please Print Offender's Name)

____ ____ I understand that Church Leaders may contact my appointed probation officer and counselor to whom I report as often as they deem necessary.

____ ____ I am required to have one or more members of Church Leadership or a designated Accountability Partner who will host me at all times while on church property.

____ ____ I understand that all Accountability Partners must be approved by the Church Leaders and may be invited to a meeting or meetings to review my specific situation and requirements

____ ____ I must be accompanied by an member of Church Leadership or Accountability Partner when going to the restroom.

____ ____ I am permitted to attend the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service.

____ ____ I am permitted to attend the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Bible Study Class in the auditorium.

_____ I am permitted to attend the Thursday Night Bible Study.

____ ____ I must check in with a member of Church Leadership, or Accountability Partner in the building foyer or office immediately upon entering the building.

____ ____ I must check out with a member of Church Leadership , or Accountability Part when ready to leave the building and a member of Church Leadership or Accountability Partner will walk me to my car and remain till I leave the premises.

____ ____ I am required to not sit next to a minor, which is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years of age.

____ ____ I will make every effort to have no contact with minors.

____ ____ I will only attend a small group bible study approved by my probation officer/counselor, and/or Church Leadership. I understand the group leader or teacher will be told I cannot attend social or other activities of the group if minors are present.

____ ____ I will not attempt to serve in any church ministries without approval of probation officer, counselor, and/or Church Leadership.

____ ____ I may receive one-on-one bible study and counseling with the understanding that the elder, minister, or teacher will be informed of my background and will be asked to meet me off campus at a restaurant or other public location approved by probation office/counselor and/or Church Leadership. On premises on-on-one bible studies must be approved by Church Leadership.

____ ____ I may contact one of the Church elders if I have questions or concerns.

____ ____ I understand and agree to the following steps and consequences if I am suspected of violating this agreement:

The offender is expected to explicitly adhere to this agreement. If a violation is suspected, the offender will meet with Church Leadership at a time and place and in a manner determined by the Church in its sole discretion to review the

suspected violation and the Church's concerns. The offender's parole or probation officer may be invited to participate in the meeting. If the violation is confirmed by the Church Leaders in their sole discretion, the offender will no longer be permitted to attend church or permitted on church premises at any time. Presence on church property from that point on will be considered trespass and authorities will be called to report the trespass.

I_____ have read and understand the preceding agreement and have initialed the specific requirements that provide me with opportunities to attend Cape Cod Church of Christ worship and other related activities. By initialing these statements, I am agreeing that I will adhere to these terms and that they are in effect until they are replaced by another signed agreement offered to me by the Church. I understand that if I do not adhere to the terms of this agreement, I will no longer be permitted to attend the Church. I consent to and will execute any and all documents necessary to allow the Church to obtain any of the information or make any of the contacts described herein or as may be reasonably requested by the Church, and I further state such requests will not invade any confidentially and/or privacy rights I may have and I expressly waive any privacy rights or confidentiality. Additionally, I expressly authorize the Church to reasonably disseminate any and all information it learns directly and/or indirectly from me and/or from documents I have authorized the Church to obtain and/or review to give effect to this Agreement. Notwithstanding any of the above, I further acknowledge that the Church may terminate, limit, or modify in any manner at its sole discretion at any time with or without reason or explanation my ability to attend Church and/or participate in Church related activities as set forth above.

_____ _____

Offender Signature Date

_____ _____

Church Leader Signature Date

# Accountability Partner Requirements

**Definition of Accountability Partner:** For the purposes of this agreement an Accountability Partner shall be a mature adult of the same gender, over the age of 25 years of age, with no sexual misconduct history. The Accountability Partner must be an active member of the Cape Cod Church of Christ and will be designated by the Church Leaders. An Accountability Partner shall be provided a copy of this agreement, advised of its content and appropriate protocol should concerns arise, and be willing to take this responsibility seriously.

**Protocols for Accountability Partner**:

1. Church Leadership will review all material both written and verbal that is provided by the State Board of Corrections, Probation Staff, and Counselors on the Offender.

2. Church Leadership will screen and designate a Primary and Alternate Accountability Partner for Offender.

3. If the Offender is on probation, the Accountability Partner will be briefed by Church Leadership on the terms of the probation and restrictions. Only Church Leaders are authorized to communicate/coordinate with the Offender's probation officer and counselor.

4. The Accountability Partner will observe the Offender at all times while on Church premises. The Accountability Partner will not, to the extent possible, allow the participant to be alone with church members other than Church Leadership.

5. The Accountability Partner will not permit the Offender to enter youth program areas and will move the Offender away from minors.

6. If the Primary Accountability Partner is unable to supervise for any reason, the Church Leadership and Alternate Accountability Partner will be notified and coverage confirmed. Absent the presence of the Accountability Partner the Offender will not be permitted to attend service.

7. The Accountability Partner shall accompany the participant when access to restroom facilities is needed.

7. Any observed inappropriate behavior shall be pointed out to the Offender and reported to the Church Leadership. If the inappropriate behavior is serious, the matter will be addressed in accordance with the Offender Agreement and if applicable the police.

**Primary Accountability Partner**: _____

**Alternate Accountability Partner**: _____

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**Church Leader Contact: _____**