



The National Black Church Initiative™

“Keeping It Real!”

Teen Code of Conduct

Pastor/Facilitator:

What do we understand a covenant to mean as spiritual beings?

Youth:

A covenant is an agreement between two or more parties to do something resulting in a stronger, better relationship.

Pastor/Facilitator:

What common experience leads us into spiritual fellowship and covenant relations with one another during our time together for the next seven weeks?

Youth:

We are young, gifted, and blessed with hope, faith, and understanding of the important role of the Spirit of God. We agree to use our time in and out of each session in prayer, meditation, and reflection on the values of love, respect, family, and community.

Pastor/Facilitator:

And what is our pledge to those whom we have received permission from to participate in this ministry to reduce teen pregnancy, and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases with your peers, other people of faith?

Youth:

We promise to present ourselves in dress and conversation as respectable, responsible young men and women committed to representing our church and home in a way that is appropriate and pleasing.

Pastor/Facilitator:

What are some of the privileges you will enjoy in the “Keeping It Real!” dialogue sessions?

Youth:

We strive to engage in activities and opportunities, to share with each others, to learn from each other, to have respectful conversations with each other, to fellowship with a light heart and an open mind with those whose experiences and circumstances might be different from our own.

Pastor/Facilitator:

What are some of the duties you will have in the “Keeping It Real!” dialogue sessions?

Youth:

We recognize our responsibility and our role to start and end in prayer individually and collectively, to fully participate in all activities in each session, to listen actively, respect others and the facilitator, to help create an atmosphere of comfort and safety and confidentially for all, to be discipline and encourage discipline, and to lift each other up as children of God striving for knowledge, wisdom and acceptance.

Pastor/Facilitator:

What other promises do you gladly make as responsible teens to those who have given you permission to attend the “Keeping It Real!” dialogue sessions and to those who extended the invitation to you?

Youth:

To participate cheerfully and regularly in all session activities, to support the youth ministry of our church, and to study and reflect on the Word of God about

the great responsibility of the precious gift of sex and sexuality given from God while respectfully being real to ourselves.

Pastor/Facilitator:

For the sake of the adults who trust you to use this time wisely to learn and grow in the knowledge of our Lord, what promises do you make related to your behavior with each other?

Youth:

We promise to listen and follow instructions that are given and necessary for our growth, safety, comfort, enjoyment and our future while in session and reduce or not engage in risky, inappropriate behavior that will impact on our future when not in session.

Pastor/Facilitator:

What else?

Youth:

To conduct ourselves at all times as smart, intelligent, and gifted young African American men and women respecting each other in conversation and action and honoring the opinions of all persons in each session.

Pastor/Facilitator:

What else?

Youth:

To resist the temptation to engage in conversations and activities (verbally and physically) that would place each other in harms way or result in guilt, shame or the need for disciplinary action.

Pastor/Facilitator:

Lastly, as young people growing into adulthood who know or are learning about God and Christ, what do you further commit to?

Youth:

We further commit to watch over one another in brotherly and sisterly love, remember this agreement and inform an adult immediately of any conversations and actions, sickness or offenses that are inappropriate and misrepresent this covenant.

Pastor/Facilitator:

For the good of our spiritual development what do you promise to do as we move to have better communication and relationships with those who gave you permission to participate in this ministry?

Youth:

We promise to humbly seek information that will help us better understand our place in the church, family, home, and community and the responsibility we have as spiritual and sexual beings to making wise, healthy, decisions.

Unison:

Humbly we pray and ask for grace, strength, wisdom, patience, tolerance, respect, unity and a spiritually uplifting experience during the next seven weeks of dialogue so that we can be wiser and stronger.

My signature is an indication that I have read and prayed upon the above statement and agree to the “Keeping It Real!” Code of Conduct and this covenant between me, my peers, and the adults who will be facilitating our time together to make sure I have an uplifting, meaningful, life affirming experience.

Signature

Date