

# UNITEEN/YOU AGREEMENT LESSON OUTLINE

(adapted from Southwest Region Lesson by Mark Fisk)

**Overview:** At this past June Y.O.U. Rally, some Y.O.U.ers chose to break trust and disregard group agreements as well as state laws. While the number of participants who took part in this activity was fairly small, there was knowledge of this among other Y.O.U.ers and even some Adult Sponsors.

We are only able to have youth events on a regional level because we have assured parents and ministers that our youth understand their responsibilities, and that the adults who supervise them have a clear understanding of their role at the event. This recent breakdown in that process has caused the Fall YOU Retreat to be postponed and has raised concerns about the safety of our youth at both YOU and Uniteen events. With this in mind, the following lesson is a required lesson for all adults and youth attending future regionally sponsored events.

## I. AGREEMENT FOUR-SQUARE: A framework for making choices

In Unity, we emphasize that each person’s life is a continuous sequence of choices and consequences. One way to become more aware of the consequences of our choices (not only on ourselves, but on others) is through an exercise called “cost & promise.” For any decision you have to make, there is a cost (consequences) and promise (benefits) both of doing it and of not doing it. One’s decision thus reflects which of the factors are more compelling than the others. The following activity is designed to encourage thought and discussion about some of our event agreements and the consequences of a choice to honor or not honor them.

1. Create a four-square grid on the floor with masking tape and “benefits/consequences” signs placed as indicated below (Fig. 1). Ask the kids to stand in the different quadrants to list the benefits and consequences of substance use. This can be as simple as walking to the appropriate square to state one of the benefits or consequences – or can be played with a four-square ball eliminating players when they cannot come up with an example for their square. Allow the kids to come up with their own answers but feel free to add things they may not think of. *For older teens, the four-square grid can be used on a flip chart or white board.*



Fig. 1

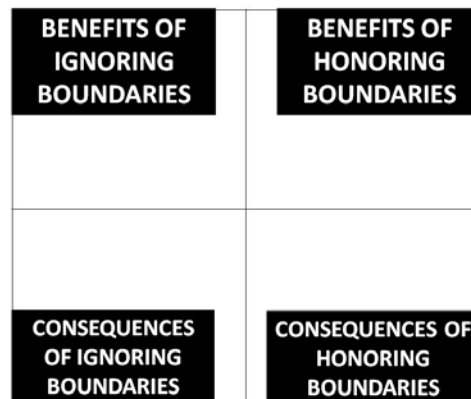


Fig. 2

2. Now use the grid to list the benefits & consequences of substance use at a Uniteen/YOU event. Discuss what changes if anything.
3. Repeat the activity for Ignoring vs. Honoring Boundaries (Fig. 2)
4. Next, use the grid to consider the benefits and consequences -- to participants and to the sponsoring churches -- of Having Regional Events vs. Not Having Regional Events.

## II. DISCUSSION:

- a. **How important is it to you that the Great Lakes Region churches continue to sponsor regional events? And why should the churches be willing to assume the risks of such events?**

**b. What are Agreements? And why do we have them?**

*The only way the Region will continue to offer Uniteen/YOU events is if it can trust that adults and teens understand the purpose of these events and their obligations during them. As a group, we must decide what sort of environment we want, how we expect to be treated and what our role is in bringing that about.*

**III. Some thoughts about agreements:**

**Members are agreeing how they will conduct themselves while in a group setting.**

Agreements do not extend outside of a group situation. *You are not making a judgment about an individual's behavioral choices -- such as drinking, smoke, swearing or making out -- when they're at home. But in class and at events, such behavior is inappropriate because of their negative impact on the group.*

**Leaders and the Church are also part of the group.** There are some 'bottom lines', such as church/regional policies. But even those issues can be presented as a matter of choice. *For example, if the group chooses not to support church policies, the church will not support the group.*

**Agreement cannot be imposed by a leader; it can only be facilitated.** Teens must have ownership of the agreements. *The current agreements were developed over the years by Uniteens, YOUers and Sponsors from various regions. Do the current Teens see them as 'someone else's rules' or as their own?*

**Agreements do not have to be adopted unanimously. But once adopted, everyone must agree to abide by them.** ALL AGREEMENTS can be revisited and/or clarified in the future. At any time, you should be open to discussing, adding, modifying or deleting agreements.

**If group members are not living up to the agreements, they aren't worth the paper they're written on.** Creating agreements is not an academic exercise. Agreements are only in effect if group members sincerely agree with them and uphold them in their own consciousness.

**Please review each agreement with your teens and ask:**

**Why do we even have this agreement? What is the impact on another person's experience and on the entire event when this agreement is broken?**

*(e.g., substance use at an event is not just a health issue. It forces others to decide whether or not to join in, and then whether to keep such a secret -- at a place where they should be free of such pressures.)*

And is it necessary, or fair, to hold accountable teens who do not actually break this agreement but know about it? What is your obligation to those who choose to break agreements, as well as to your sponsors, leaders, the Region and those who don't?

**IV. Moving forward**

Individuals directly involved in breaking agreements are ineligible to attend regional events until they again earn the trust of their parents, leaders and minister. What steps, if any, can we take to assure parents, leaders, other teens and ministers that such incidents will not happen again? Are any of the following necessary or desirable -- from the teens' or sponsors' perspective:

- *modifying the Heart Agreement*
- *more adult training*
- *stricter screening of attendees and limit the size of events*
- *bag searches before events*
- *24-hr supervision (incl. no free time or going anywhere without an escort)*
- *no Uniteen/YOU events away from a church*
- *no Regional Unitreat/YOU events*

# AGREEMENT FOUR-SQUARE – USING VS NOT USING SUBSTANCES

(I.E. ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS, ETC.)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>BENEFITS OF<br/>USING A<br/>SUBSTANCE</b>     | <b>BENEFITS OF<br/>NOT USING A<br/>SUBSTANCE</b>     |
| <b>CONSEQUENCES<br/>OF USING A<br/>SUBSTANCE</b> | <b>CONSEQUENCES OF<br/>NOT USING A<br/>SUBSTANCE</b> |

# AGREEMENT FOUR-SQUARE – IGNORING VS. HONORING BOUNDARIES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>BENEFITS OF<br/>IGNORING<br/>BOUNDARIES</b>     | <b>BENEFITS OF<br/>HONORING<br/>BOUNDARIES</b>     |
| <b>CONSEQUENCES<br/>OF IGNORING<br/>BOUNDARIES</b> | <b>CONSEQUENCES OF<br/>HONORING<br/>BOUNDARIES</b> |

**BENEFITS OF  
USING A SUBSTANCE  
CONSEQUENCES OF  
USING A SUBSTANCE**

**BENEFITS OF  
NOT USING A SUBSTANCE  
CONSEQUENCES OF  
NOT USING A SUBSTANCE**

**BENEFITS OF  
HONORING BOUNDARIES**

**CONSEQUENCES OF  
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**BENEFITS OF  
IGNORING BOUNDARIES**

**CONSEQUENCES OF  
IGNORING BOUNDARIES**

## 2011-2012 GREAT LAKES REGIONAL EVENTS

### REQUIRED LESSON PLAN

Dear Y.O.U. Sponsors,

In an effort to help our Y.O.U.ers to better understand the intention and purpose of our event agreements, a special lesson plan has been prepared for your group. Although the incident at June Rally did not involve all of the teens, it does reflect a wide-spread misunderstanding of the purpose of event agreements.

To maintain the quality and safety of our regional events, we must be proactive in assisting all of our youth and adults in exploring the purpose of these agreements and how vital they are to the continued success of our regional events. This lesson plan addresses our agreements as well as issues and choices that are relevant to our youth in their everyday lives.

The attached lesson plan is a required activity for all chapters attending the 2012 June Rally and the 2012 Teen Leadership Conference in March. It is highly recommend that chapters complete this lesson as soon as possible and prior to attending the various local and area wide events planned for the fall.

The certification form below must be submitted to me prior to your chapter's attendance at the next regional event.

In Peace, Love & Light,

Rev. Eileen Patra  
Great Lakes Youth & Family Ministry Specialist  
Events & Teen Ministry Support

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#### AGREEMENT LESSON PLAN CERTIFICATION

(Form to be completed and signed by the Y.O.U. Sponsor & Y.O.U.ers)

Chapter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Church \_\_\_\_\_

(city, state)

Our chapter has completed the required Agreement Lesson Plan for the 2012 Regional Events. We understand the purpose of these agreements and agree to uphold them and to assist one another in upholding them during all regional events.

Sponsor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Y.O.U.er Signatures: