I/We, (Parent/Guardian)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

 (Name) (Name)

the Parent/Guardian of (Youth)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

 (Youth name/s)

give permission for our youth, while under the direction/care of The Journey Church Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Youth Ministry Leaders, to have photos/videos/images taken, displayed, or used for record keeping, promotion, outreach, and celebratory purposes. I/we authorize church pastoral staff, volunteer youth leaders, and leaders to photograph, video record, and use aforementioned media for church ministries. In this digital age the church takes many pictures of special events, activities, youth group, etc. We use these photos/videos/images to record, promote, and celebrate our church ministries through various venues including, but not limited to church youth website, slide shows, bulletin boards, etc. Photos/videos/images are almost always in public areas and/or at public events. We will not knowingly post anything that would be embarrassing, objectionable, or hurtful to anyone in photo/video/image.

Having understood the above, I/we hereby disclaim, release, and agree to hold the Journey Church, its pastors, staff, members, volunteer youth advisors and leaders harmless from any liability to us, to our youth, or to any other person or entity as a result of or in connection with the use of said photographs/videos/images, including but not limited to, any claims for invasion of privacy or defamation.

 Signatures

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

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

**Social Media Policy Overview**

**Consent:** We will always obtain written parent/legal guardian permission in advance. In addition to general permission to participate in a church event, obtain written advance parent/legal guardian permission for youths. In the case of a new student attending a youth function or a student attending invited by a friend, we will assume that we do not have permission to photograph or communicate with this student via policy below until we have written confirmation. (In the extreme case that a photo or video is needed, a phone call with a parent/guardian may occur with a signed permission following within 24 hours).

* The Journey Youth Leaders will never post any identifiable information (i.e. names, address, age, etc.) on social media or email blasts unless pertaining to an event being held in relation to the youth.

**Photos**: In taking photos if there is an intention to post on a personal social media site, the student will be given an ability to say no. Youth Leaders will continue to monitor the post and remove any comments that may be deemed inappropriate. Memory-keeping photos for students and leaders will be group shots. Photos will only be for the intent of sharing with our formal Journey communication channels.

**Communication**: Regarding communication with a student under the age of 18, this will be done with utmost concern and caution. Leaders and Volunteers may be connected as friends via social media sites. However, the student must be the one to initiate such a connection, and the student must be the one to initiate any communication.

* Regarding communication via text messaging with a student under the age of 18, the recommendation is it should be done in a “group” text format. If an individual text to a student is needed, the person should include another leader or volunteer in the communication for accountability. If a group text is needed, all leaders and volunteers will be included in the communication.
* If there is any concern in communication raised by the student, a parent/guardian, or senior leader, the volunteer or leader will be immediately asked to step down from their volunteer role for an investigation.