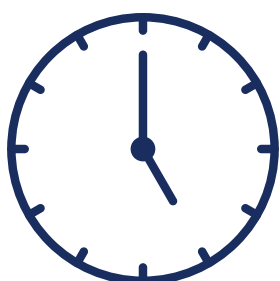


FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH LEADERS

Being Mindful in a Digital World:



TIME OF DAY

limit communication between 8 am and 9 pm

Prudent judgment should be used in the time of day a child or youth is contacted through social media. Refrain from contact or exchanging texts, chats, or emails before 8:00 am or after 9:00 pm, unless it's an emergency - Parents must be informed, too.



INTERACTIONS

Adults should not initiate friend requests

Youth may not be able to decline such requests due to the disparity of power between youth and adults. Youth may ask an adult to be "friends," and adults should discern the nature of contact appropriate for healthy ministry.



VIRTUAL MEETINGS

be mindful on who can see the information

Specific group invites are best to help increase the level of security of who would participate. Have a plan in place before meetings to address how to handle a 'zoom bomber' type situation.

*Two adults must be present for virtual meetings - just like in-person expectations. Video recording is a not preferred option as the second set of eyes and ears to help ensure the virtual platform is working smoothly.

*Video recording could be used as an emergency backup. Backup and verification of what was said and done - not used as promotional material.



COMMUNICATION METHODS

how to connect matters

Inform parents of children and youth of social networking sites and platforms used within the ministry. These are the expectations of use throughout the community.



TEXT MESSAGES

easy and direct - use best judgement

1. Best for group texts
2. Parent permission for text usage
3. This is complicated and this is tricky. As a Church community we work to train our adults to use the best judgement possible when communicating with youth.



PHOTOS

check before posting or sharing

Posting photos of children under 18 without a parent or legal guardian's prior consent is not allowed.