

FAMILY STRENGTHENING COVENANT©

COVENANT TO MAKE OUR CONGREGATION A "STRENGTHENING FAMILY SITE"

On _____ (day of week), _____ (month, day, year), the _____ (name of House of Worship) voted to become a **"Strengthening Family Site"** and **"Congregational Home Visiting Site"** based on the protective factors framework created by the CSSP (www.cssp.org) and adopted by several federal child and family serving agencies such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), and the Child Welfare Information Gateway (CWIG).

This means that as the senior and/or lead "Pastor / Faith / Spiritual Leader" of our congregation, I will promote the (1) spiritual health, (2) mental health, (3) financial health and (4) physical health of our congregants and lead our house of worship in an official vote to endorse and support this covenant and to take official action on the following recommendations:

- #1:** Highlighting, Defining and Training its members and leaders to understand and implement the "Protective and Promotive Factor Framework" in ALL aspects of our programming;
- #2:** Changing our House of Worship's **"Children's & Youth Ministry"** to be congruent with Early Childhood Development and Infant Mental Health practices, programs and principles;
- #3:** Changing our House of Worship's **"Women's Ministry"** to be congruent with "Maternal-Child Health" practices, programs and principles and partnering with evidence-based and emerging home-visiting practices;
- #4:** Changing our House of Worship's **"Men's Ministry"** to be congruent with "Paternal-Child Health / Responsible Fatherhood" practices, programs and principles and partnering with Ntl. Fatherhood Leadership Group;
- #5:** Changing our House of Worship's **"Marriage Ministry"** to be congruent with evidenced-based, "Community Health Marriage" practices, programs and principles and partnering with the U.S. D.H.H.S.'s "Community Health Marriage Initiative";
- #6:** Changing our House of Worship's **"Baby Blessing & Christening"** ritual(s) to be commensurate with evidence-based early childhood and home-visiting programs such as "Healthy Families America" (HFA), "Parents as Teachers" (PAT), and "Nurse-Family Partnership" (NFP), and other promising programs such as the "Congregational Home Visiting Model" (CHV) as presented by the Institute for Clergy Training, Inc.
- #7:** Lastly, I commit as the Pastor or senior "Spiritual / Faith Leader" of our congregation, to preach and teach on issues concerning child and family well-being at least four times per year during the following months:
 - A.** April...which is "Child Abuse Prevention Month;" **C.** October... which is "DV Awareness Month;"
 - B.** May...which is "Foster Care Awareness Month;" **D.** November... which is "Adoption Awareness Month;"

PASTOR: _____ DATE: _____

HOUSE OF WORSHIP: _____ CITY/STATE: _____

EMAIL: _____ CELL#: _____