

## Statement on Rights and Dignity of Campers/Staff

Central to Covenant Point's mission is the belief that each and every one of our campers bears the image of God. The community of campers and staff who gather here embody the Revelation 7:9 vision of God's diverse Kingdom, which Jesus came to announce through his life, teachings, death, and resurrection. Jesus' ministry, which we seek to carry on, was shaped by his reach to the margins, outcasts, and his care for the one among the many. The Good News that Jesus shared, and that we share, was holistic - it was not *just* spiritual freedom and salvation, but also social inclusion, and physical and emotional healing. Our ministry seeks to reconcile, because in Christ we have been reconciled, to welcome because in Christ we have been welcomed, to be gracious because in Christ we have been shown grace.

We believe that all campers deserve the chance to experience and hear about God's love for them here. We recognize that some campers are more vulnerable than others, and more at-risk for self-harm, bullying, poverty, suicide, violence, abuse, or homelessness; our approach to ministry with those more vulnerable campers may need to look different at times, (ie. additional patience, sensitivity, adjustment, accommodation), for them to have a successful week. We seek to ensure that our ministry is a uniquely safe and inclusive place for our campers, where they experience love and dignity; we recognize that for some, this may be their only experience of a safe and inclusive place where they experience love and dignity.

Staff are trained to engage campers with care and gentleness, to ask questions, to come alongside, to pray, and to point to Jesus. As a ministry, we are committed to embracing multicultural community at camp, and assisting our campers and staff in moving away from racism and toward racial righteousness. Our discipleship reflects this value by incorporating biblical study on compassion, mercy and justice with each week of camp, at an age-appropriate level. We recognize our role in helping campers navigate relationships across cultural and racial differences, and while we allow room for mistakes and reconciliation, we will not tolerate racially-insensitive acts, speech (by *any* campers or staff, in *any* context), and stereotyping. Our staff are expected to demonstrate cultural competence in their interactions with campers and fellow staff members. Our campers are expected to engage people of different backgrounds with respect and humility.