

## Appendix VIII

### **Acknowledgement of Understanding of the Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment Protocol Including Covenant of Care for the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Name of Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Parish \_\_\_\_\_

"The archdiocese has a moral, spiritual and legal obligation to safeguard, in all respects, all of those to whom we minister (Matthew 18:6). It is committed to exemplifying integrity and accountability as well as acting with justice and mercy. It expects its clergy, employees and volunteers to be outstanding individuals of high moral and ethical standards. Those engaged in ministry are required to be faithful members of the church. The archdiocese opposes all forms of misconduct, and pledges to offer an environment free from misconduct for all of its spiritual and pastoral activities. This protocol encompasses an approach that focuses on prevention and education, intervention and healing. It offers clear procedures and protocols to prevent and respond to all forms of abuse." This has been taken from the introduction to the Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment Protocol Guiding Principles.

I acknowledge the paramount importance of safeguarding, in all respects, all of those to whom we minister, especially children, youth and vulnerable adults, by:

- Following all the directives in the Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment Protocol, Policies and Procedures for the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth including the Covenant of Care;
- Using appropriate language;
- Within our ecclesiastical mandate show no bias on account of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, skin colour, intelligence, age, religion, or socio-economic status, or level of education;
- Respecting confidentiality and privacy, unless a child, youth, or vulnerable adult is in danger, then I will report in the case of a child/youth to a child protection agency or the police and in the case of a vulnerable adult then I will report to the Department of Health.

#### **I agree to the following:**

[ ] to complete and sign the Staff/Volunteer Request for Information Form

[ ] to comply with obtaining a police Criminal Record Check and a Vulnerable Sector Check

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

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_