Recovery Ready Worship Place Statement of Commitment

Substance use disorder (SUD) affects not only individuals but also their families, communities, and places of worship. In 2023, 49 million Americans were living with SUD, impacting every facet of society, including our faith communities. SUD can lead to personal and communal struggles, but it also offers an opportunity for places of worship to demonstrate compassion and support.

Recognizing the profound impact of SUD and the transformative power of recovery, [name of church or faith-based organization] in [City, State] is dedicated to becoming a Recovery-Ready Worship Place. This commitment means that [name church or faith-based organization name]:

* Acknowledges Substance Use Disorder as a Medical Condition: We understand that SUD is a health issue, not a moral failing, and treat it with the same compassion and care as any other illness.
* Promotes SUD and Recovery Literacy: We are committed to educating our community about SUD and recovery, reducing stigma, and embracing language and practices that reflect understanding and respect. This includes adopting recommended guidelines on SUD language and ensuring our leaders and congregants receive relevant training.
* Supports Individuals in Recovery: We actively support and walk alongside individuals on their recovery journey, providing them with spiritual and community support.
* Welcomes and Engages People in Recovery: We seek to include and respect individuals in recovery within our community, encouraging their involvement and valuing their unique contributions.
* Communicates Substance Use Policies and Resources: We ensure that all members are aware of our substance use policies, the available support resources, and how to access them.
* Provides a Safe Harbor for Seeking Help: Our community offers a safe and non-judgmental space for individuals to seek help for substance use issues, without fear of discrimination or reprisal.
* Focuses on Prevention: We strive to prevent substance misuse through evidence-based prevention activities and by addressing factors such as stress and promoting overall well-being within our community.
* Equips for Emergency Response: We train our members to recognize and respond to opioid overdoses, including the use of naloxone, and make naloxone accessible in our worship place.
* Creates a Culture of Recovery: We celebrate recovery as a journey of hope and renewal and create an environment that is welcoming and supportive of all who are on this path.

As part of our commitment, [name of church or faith-based organization] shares this statement with our congregation, includes it in new member orientation materials, and makes it publicly available on our website at: [the website link to your church or faith-based organization]

Together, we stand as a beacon of hope, offering a sanctuary for healing and a community that embraces and supports recovery.