

SAMPLE

SAFE SANCTUARIES POLICY

_____ United Methodist Church recognizes the responsibility of the church to do all in its power to assure the safety and spiritual growth of children and youth who come to the church.

All persons, paid and volunteer, who work with children and/or youth, shall sign a form consenting in advance to possible fingerprinting and back ground check in the future. (see form attached)

We will work to ensure that no harm comes to children and youth by (check all that apply):

_____ having at least two adults (preferably not related) present in the room where children/s events, classes, etc. are occurring. When this is not possible, a "roamer" will visit the room periodically.

_____ no worker/s under the age of 18 will have sole responsibility, nor be alone with, any children.

_____ having eye-level windows in classrooms, or doors will be kept open.

For new volunteers and/or paid workers, we will apply the following (check all that apply):

_____ must be related to the congregation for at least six months before they work with children and youth.

_____ screening process which includes references, interviews and application forms. (see forms attached)

(Choose one) The pastor, nurture chair, education chair, Sunday School Superintendent, lay leader, trustee chair, or name another position will oversee the implementation of this Safe Sanctuaries policy and provide for the safe-keeping of the consent forms at the church. The policy will be reviewed at least annually by volunteers, workers and church administration, so that all will be reminded of the rules and so that any needed modifications may be made to the policy.

This congregation is committed to showing and sharing the love of God through Jesus to all who come to the church, including children and youth.