

AUMC Safe Sanctuaries Child / Youth Protection Policy

Effective Date: June 1, 2009

KEY POINTS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

- The General Conference of The United Methodist Church, in April 1996, adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of child abuse in the church.
- This Policy shall be applicable to all activities involving children and youth sponsored by AUMC or held on church property.
 - Sunday school programs and events. Youth programs and events.
 - After School and Pre School programs and events.
 - Scouting programs and events.
 - Other programs and events involving the care of children & youth that may, from time to time, be approved by the Board of Trustees.
- This policy shall be in effect beginning at the appointed starting time of the program / event and shall end with the adjournment of the program / event.
- In all of our ministries with children & youth, this congregation is committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ so that each child will be “surrounded by steadfast love, ... established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.” (“Baptismal Covenant II,” United Methodist Hymnal, p. 44.)

SAFE SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

The Safe Sanctuary Committee of AUMC is comprised of:

SPRC representative	Board of Trustees representative
Finance Committee representative	Recreation representative
Nursery representative	Children's Ministry Council representative
Girl Scouts representative	Boy Scouts representative
Youth Ministry representative	Children's Weekday Ministries Board
Missions representative	Senior / Associate Pastor
Technical advisors as needed (medical, police, legal)	

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

- Employment application
- Background check
- Volunteer Information Form
- Volunteers must regularly attend AUMC for six months before they can work.
- Outside groups meeting at AUMC will be asked to sign a statement of compliance.
- Complete educational training program, Orientation / Training Session
- “two-adult rule” where possible
- Be at least 18 years of age

This document and policy are a work in progress for the next several months.



Safe Sanctuaries is not:

- Just a form completed and kept in a binder.
- A mere background check for volunteers.
- Just two people in each classroom.
- One size (policy) fits all!

Safe Sanctuaries is:

- A policy not just on paper but put into practice and integrally woven into the fabric of ministry within each congregation.
- A vigilance of knowing those who work with our children, youth and vulnerable adults; that can include a background check, an interview, a 6-month attendance / membership period, etc.
- A practice of minimizing risk during all programs, to include two unrelated adults in a classroom, open doors, or windows in doors, training of workers in safe toileting practices, etc.
- A process by which each congregation must evaluate how it can do ministry in the safest way, and then customize the policy and procedures to that environment. Each policy and set of procedures are unique to the specific needs of each congregation