

Safe Sanctuaries Report to the Charge Conference

On June 5, 2007, the South Georgia Annual Conference approved, by a nearly unanimous vote, to adopt a policy intended to protect ministry participants, volunteers and staff from harm. This policy and the practices associated with this policy are known by the general name of “Safe Sanctuaries.”

The policy was first implemented for Conference and District events. The policy called for each local church to develop a policy by December 31, 2008, and to begin fully implementing on January 1, 2009.

This report is intended to monitor implementation of the policy for the safety of all ministry participants and workers. Each District Superintendent will be expected to review this document at Charge Conference in a spirit of loving accountability.

While each church was given some liberty to customize its policy based on their scope of ministry, the policy did identify basic, minimum expectations that all policies and practices should include. The following questions seek to monitor **your current actual practices** in the area of Safe Sanctuaries.

Remember, our primary concern is to protect all ministry participants from harm. Thanks for all your efforts!

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Name of Church _____ Pastor _____

Checklist on Minimum Standards	Yes	No	If no, what are your plans to implement?
We screen and check references for all adults, volunteer or paid persons, whether laity or clergy, who have any direct or indirect contact with children, youth or vulnerable adults who participate in any activities or events sponsored by our church.			
All of our volunteers who have any direct or indirect contact with children, youth or vulnerable adults who participate in any activities or events sponsored by our church have been affiliated with the church for at least 6 months prior to volunteering.			
We train at least annually all volunteer and/or paid workers with children/youth/vulnerable adults in how to carry out our policies to prevent abuse and to recognize indicators of abuse.			
We utilize the “two-adult rule” during all children, youth or vulnerable adult activities or events sponsored by our church. For large groups we require at least one adult chaperone for every six children to actively supervise the participants.			
We do not allow anyone to supervise children or youth who is not at least 5 years older than the children or youth with whom he/she is working.			
Each room or space where children, youth, or vulnerable adults are being cared for has a window in the door or the door is left open during activities or events.			
We have a clear reporting procedure for a suspected incident of abuse that follows the requirements of our policy and the state law.			
We have a clearly defined response plan to be implemented in case an allegation of abuse is made against someone in our church.			
We take our policies to prevent abuse seriously, and we are committed to their enforcement for the safety and security of all our children, youth and the adults who work with them.			

This report is submitted to the Charge Conference by:

Pastor

Safe Sanctuaries Chairperson

Reviewed with congregational leaders:

District Superintendent

Date

Please file copies with: DS, Charge Conference Secretary, Pastor. The DS will send a copy to the Office of Connectional Ministries.