

Safe Sanctuaries Report to the Charge Conference

In January 2009, the South Georgia Conference fully implemented “Safe Sanctuaries” policies beyond Conference and District events into ministries within the local churches.

Each local church is required to maintain a current Safe Sanctuaries policy. While each church was given some liberty to customize this policy based on their scope and context 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.

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.

Remember, our primary concern is to protect all ministry participants from harm. Thank you for your commitment to reducing the risk of abuse.

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Name of Church:

Name of Pastor:

Checklist for Minimum Standards	Yes	No	If no, what are your plans to correct?
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 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, or 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 who is not at least five 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.