

SAFE

Sanctuaries Training

Reducing The Risk of Child Abuse In The Church



Unit 1

OUR MANDATE



WHY SAFE SANCTUARIES?

- Protect our children
- Protect our workers
- Protect the Church's assets for mission and ministry



SCRIPTURE

- Jeremiah 1:1-10
- 1 Samuel 1:27-28
- Amos 5:24
- Micah 6:6-8
- Matthew 18:5
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- Luke 2:22ff



Jeremiah 1:1-10

1 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. 2 The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, 3 and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." 6 "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." 7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

1 Samuel 1:27-28

27 I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him.

28 So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

Amos 5:24

24 But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Micah 6:6-8

6 With what shall I come before the LORD and bow
down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him
with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn
for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of
my soul?

8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what
does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love
mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Matthew 18:5

5 And whoever welcomes a little child like
this in my name welcomes me.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they
have a good return for their work: 10 If one
falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity
the man who falls and has no one to help him
up! 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will
keep warm. But how can one keep warm
alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves. A cord of three
strands is not quickly broken.

Luke 2:22

22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

Baptismal Covenant

(p.44 The United Methodist Hymnal)

Pastor: Do you as a congregation accept the responsibility of assisting *these parents* in fulfillment of the baptismal vows, and do you undertake to provide facilities and opportunities for Christian nurture and fellowship?

People: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: Members of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care *this child*, whom we this day recognize as a *member* of the family of God. Will you endeavor so to live that *this child* may grow in the knowledge and love of God, through our Savior Jesus Christ?

People: With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that *this child*, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

- 1996 General Conference adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of child sexual abuse in the church.
 - Local churches
 - Annual Conferences
 - The General Board of Discipleship and General Board of Global Ministries

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Unit 2 REALITY CHECK



Numbers

(B 15; G 13)

- 1 child every 10 seconds is abused
- 1 out of 10 boys and 1 out of 5 girls will be sexually assaulted in childhood
- 50% of sexual misconduct at worship centers is by volunteers

Can you wrap your mind around these numbers?

CHILD ABUSE IS...

Child abuse is generally categorized into five major forms:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Neglect
4. Sexual Abuse
5. Ritual Abuse

(B 17; G15)

Abuse is Costly

- Victims?
- Financial?
- Ministry?

SCARY BUT TRUE STORIES



The New Reality

1. Many cases of abuse
2. The church is not exempt
3. There are many costs

MEET PATRICK

- WHO ARE THE ABUSERS?
- HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?
- WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

**Unit 3
Overview of
Safe
Sanctuaries**



CHECKLIST FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

(B 75; G 89)



RECRUITING-SCREENING-HIRING PRACTICES

- Written Application Forms (B 64, 68; G 78, 82)
- Personal Reference Forms (B 70; G 84)
- Driver's License Checks
- Personal Interviews
- Six Month Affiliation Rule
- Participation Covenant (B 71; G 85)
- Criminal Background Checks (B 67; G 81)
local-state-national-GBI website

**Unit 4
Basic
Supervisory
Procedures**



BASIC OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Two Adult Rule [not spouses] (B 31; G 38)
- Windows In All Classrooms (B 33; G 40)
- No Workers Under Eighteen (B 33; G 40)
(Assistants who are minors)
- Five-Years-Older Rule (B 32; G 39)
- Open Door Counseling (B 33; G 40)
- First Aid/CPR Training (B 32; G 38)

BASIC OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Participation Covenant For All Participants/Leaders (B 34; G 42)
- Annual Orientation For Workers (B 32; G 39)
- Advance Notice To Parents (B 33; G 41)
- Parent and Family Education (B 34; G 42)
- Appropriate Equipment and Supervision (B 35; G 43)
- Unsupervised Time



Safe Practices for Emerging Technology

- Internet security in the workplace.
 - Computer Visibility
 - Firewall Protection/Filters
 - Passwords
- Church Websites
 - Authorized Administrators
 - Consultation/Supervision
 - Limited Personal Information
 - Consent for photos
 - Policy for blogs

Safe Practices for Emerging Technology

- Online Social Networking
 - MySpace, Facebook, Xanga, Friendster, Virb, MyYearbook, etc.
 - Culture, Connection, and Communication
 - Confidentiality, Credibility, and Character

The screenshot shows a MySpace profile for a user named 'amber'. The profile includes a navigation bar with links like Home, Browse, Search, Invite, Film, Mail, Blog, Favorites, Forum, Groups, Events, Videos, Music, Comedy, and Classifieds. The user's name 'amber.' is displayed in a large font. Below the name, there is a small photo of a young woman. To the right of the photo, the user's bio is visible: 'Female, 17 years old, Brunswick, Georgia, United States'. Below the bio, there is a section for 'amber's Latest Blog Entry' with a title 'Sum up 2006.' and a link to 'View All Blog Entries'. At the bottom of the profile, there is a 'Contacting amber' section with various options like 'Send Message', 'Add to Friends', 'Instant Message', 'Add to Group', 'Forward to Friend', 'Add to Favorites', 'Block User', and 'Rank User'. A 'MySpace URL' is also provided as 'http://www.myspace.com/amber'. There is also a small image of a bowl of food with a spoon.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

- The best and most faithful response is one that is planned in advance.
- When to break confidence with children and youth.
- **Child's safety is always the first concern.**
- Notify parents of the victim and take any necessary steps to assure the child's safety.
- Treat the accused with dignity, *but immediately remove him/her from further involvement with children and youth.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

- The United Methodist Church and Reporting Allegations of Child Abuse
- Georgia State Code Section 19-7-5
- Know the Georgia definition of child abuse and child sexual abuse
- Know the legal reporting requirements for the state of Georgia
- The Church's commitment and Christian response to the victim and his or her family, church's insurance agent, the annual conference and possibly to the abuser

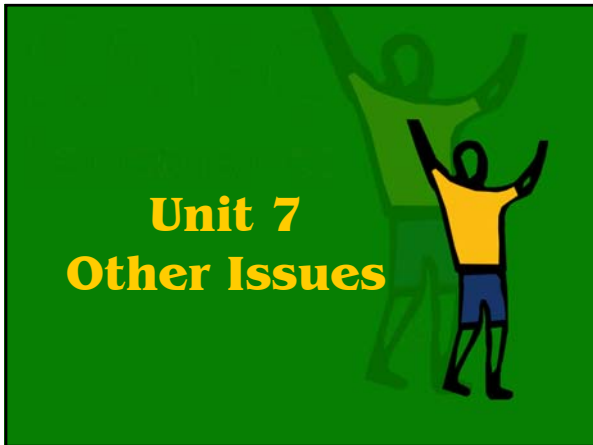
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

THINGS TO CONSIDER IF YOU OBSERVE, SUSPECT, OR RECEIVE AN ALLEGATION OF ABUSE

- Victim **IS** in immediate danger and it happened at a church sponsored function.
- Victim **IS NOT** in immediate danger and it happened at a church sponsored function.
- Victim **IS** in immediate danger and it **DID NOT** happen at a church sponsored function.
- Victim **IS NOT** in immediate danger and it **DID NOT** happen at a church sponsored function.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

- Conference Crisis Communications Team will assist church leaders.
- Prepare a brief and honest statement that can be made to the congregation. Do not give unnecessary details, blame, interfere with victim's privacy or violate any confidentiality. There is a difference between confidentiality and secrecy.
- Be prepared to cooperate fully with the investigation.



Other Areas of Risk

- Ecumenical Ministry
- Outside Groups Using Church Facilities

QUESTIONS ABOUT INSURANCE

- How much coverage do you have? What are the limits?
- Do you specifically have Sexual Abuse and Molestation (SAM) insurance?
- Who is covered? Who is not covered?

QUESTIONS ABOUT INSURANCE

- Exactly what is covered—criminal lawsuits/defendant until found guilty, innocent? **Punitive damages are never covered.**
- What do you do if there is an allegation?

Now What?
OVERWHELMED !

- Pray
- Create Awareness
- Develop Policy
- Be Patient—Expect resistance
- Remind people of WHY

Who To Call For Help

The South Georgia Conference
United Methodist Church
Connectional Ministries Office
Toll-free: 1-888-266-7642

Adam Ricker adam@sgaumc.com
Denise Walton denise@sgaumc.com
Brad Brady brad@sgaumc.com