

SAFE SANCTUARIES WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MAY 2012

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WHY SAFE SANCTUARIES ?

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



TOOL #1

SCRIPTURE

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



TOOL #2

BAPTISMAL COVENANT

- Page 44, The United Methodist Hymnal



TOOL #3

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

TOOL #4

National Center for Child Abuse & Neglect

- 3 million incidents of physical abuse and/or neglect per year is reported in the United States.
- 1 out of 7 boys; 1 out of 3 girls will be sexually assaulted in childhood

National Center for Child Abuse & Neglect

Let's think about this 3 million children/youth:

- 8,219 children/youth each day;
- 343 children/youth abused per hour;
- Close to 6 children/youth abused per minute;
- 1 child/youth abused every 10 seconds.
- 50% of worship center sexual misconduct is by volunteers
- 1 person every hour has stroke/heart attack.

ABUSERS AND VICTIMS

- 10% by strangers
- 34% by family members
- 58% by people they trust

- 1-4% of reports are fabricated
- 75% of false reports are by adults

Why the Church is At Risk

- Trusting organization.
- Not important to screen volunteers.
 - No application.
 - No references.
 - No Background check.
- Provide opportunities for close contact and relationship with children & youth.

TOOL #5

SCARY BUT TRUE STORIES



TOOL #6

INCORPORATION

- www.gcfa.org
- <http://www.gcfa.org/PDFs/LMLocalChurchSec2.pdf>
- www.dos.state.pa.us

TOOL #7

MEET PATRICK

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

Five Kinds of Abuse & Indicators

- Physical
- Emotional
- Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Ritual Abuse

TOOL #8

CHECKLIST FOR LOCAL CHURCHES



TOOL #9

RECRUITING-SCREENING-HIRING PRACTICES

- Written Application Forms
- Personal Reference Forms
- Driver's License Checks
- Personal Interviews
- Six Month Hospitality Rule
- Participation Covenant—Face Book/My Space
- Criminal Background Checks – Trak-1
local-state-national-Megan's Law Website—Face
Book/My Space—including ALL paid staff

DRIVER'S LICENSE CHECK

- www.dot.state.pa.us
- Click on-line services (top right corner)
- Click driver & vehicle services history
- Cost
 - \$5.00-3 year history; \$10.00-5 year
- You'll need
 - Driver's License, Date of Birth, last 4 digits of Social Security Number, Credit Card

TOOL #10

BASIC OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Two *UNRELATED* Adult Rule
- Windows In All Classrooms
- No Workers Under Eighteen
- Five-Years-Older Rule
- Open Door Counseling
- First Aid/CPR Training

Basic Operating Procedures (cont'd)

- Participation Covenant For All Participants/ Leaders
- Annual Orientation For Workers
- Advance Notice To Parents
- Parent and Family Education
- Appropriate Equipment and Supervision
- Appropriate MySpace/Facebook Acct.

Cyber-safety

- 73% of adults use Internet.
 - 83% of these use Internet to seek info. on hobbies.
 - 57% use Internet to watch or download videos.
 - 87% of adults between the ages of 18 and 29 use the internet.
- 64% of online teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 are creating content.

Cyber-Safety

- Social Networking – online place where a user can set up a personal profile and then use it to set up a personal network of connections to other users of the site.
 - MySpace – 48%
 - Facebook – 73%
 - LinkedIn – 14%
 - Twitter
 - Plaxo

Cyber-Safety

- Cyber stalking
- Cyber bullying
- Sexual misconduct or abuse

Things to include

- Parental/guardian permission.
- Never post easily identifiable information online.
- Limit individual communications with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.
- Safety measures for sharing photos electronically.
- Safety measures for using social networking sites.
- Refrain from giving out passwords.

Cyber-Safety

- Every second of every minute, 28,000 internet users viewing pornography.
- Every second 372 internet users are typing adult search terms (Google, Yahoo.)
- Every second \$3,075.64 is spent on pornography,
- Every 39 minutes a new pornographic video is produced in the U.S.

(www.pewinternet.org or www.toptenreview.com)

TOOL #11

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

- Notify the parents of the victim and take any necessary steps to assure child's safety.
Child's safety is first concern.
- Treat accused with dignity, *but immediately remove him/her from further involvement with children and/or youth.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

- Notify proper law enforcement/child protective services.
- Notify annual conference authorities, insurance agent, and church's attorney.

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- 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. Make sure this statement is cleared with the Conference Communicator and your District Superintendent. The Director of Connectional Ministry is also available to check the statement.

- Be prepared to cooperate fully with the investigation.
- When the investigation is completed, send another letter to the congregation explaining the results of the investigation and steps taken.

PA STATUTE ON REPORTING: SB 1054 REVISED MAY, 2007

- A person who, in the course of their employment, occupation or practice of a profession comes in contact with children shall report or cause a report to be made...when that the person HAS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE is a victim of child abuse...shall report or cause a report to be made.

- Except with respect to confidential communications made to a member of the clergy which are protected under 42 PA C.S. (relating to confidential communications to clergymen).

The Book of Discipline

- Clergy as Reporters

*“All clergy of the United Methodist Church are charged to maintain all confidences inviolate including confessional confidences, **except** in the cases of suspected child abuse or neglect or in cases where mandatory reporting is required by civil law”*

The Book of Discipline, 2004: ¶341.5

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

- Ecumenical Ministry
- Outside Groups Using Church Facilities
- Response Plan—who speaks to the media
- How to include convicted sex offenders in your congregation and still keep children/youth safe

QUESTIONS ABOUT INSURANCE

- How much coverage do you have? What are the limits?
- Do you specifically have “SAM” insurance?
- Who is covered/Who is not covered?

- 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?

**“TRUTH, LIES,
AND
SEX
OFFENDERS”**

HOW THEY THINK, WHAT THEY DO

ANNA C. SALTER, Ph.D

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Thank You

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