

Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church



This workshop is for congregations looking to create or revamp policies and procedures to reduce the risk of child abuse in the church. It includes a training section for those who work with children and youth.

Audience: Consistories and Church Children and Youth Leaders

This workshop was created with a flexible format and can be tailored to specific needs. The basic content includes:

*Our biblical mandate to welcome children and youth into our faith community and provide a safe place where they can worship, grow spiritually, and serve.

*Basic information on child abuse.

*Guidelines for recruiting and screening children and youth workers.

*Specific preventive procedures for safe ministry with children and youth.

*Tips and resources on cyber-safety in ministry.

*Guidelines for a congregational plan for responding to allegations of child abuse.

*Guidelines for participation in church life by registered sex offenders.

This workshop's primary resource is *Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth* by Joy Thornburg Melton. Additional material comes from related websites and Albany Synod and ecumenical congregations. Contact Nancy McNiven at the synod office to set up a workshop or for more information:

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