

SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY
St. John's United Methodist Church
Dover, New Hampshire
Adopted April 16, 2012

*Jesus called the children to him and said,
"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."
Luke 18:16*

*The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one
of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40*

"God calls us to create communities of faith where children and adults grow safe and strong." (The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2008). He commands us to protect our children, youth and vulnerable adults from physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Therefore, in covenant with the teachings of Jesus and the resolutions adopted at General Conference in 1996 and the New England Annual Conference in 2010, St. John's United Methodist Church has adopted this Safe Sanctuary Policy.

Purpose

Our purpose in establishing this Safe Sanctuary Policy and accompanying procedures is to demonstrate our total and unwavering commitment to the physical, emotional and spiritual safety of all our children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

Covenant Statement

St. John's United Methodist Church pledges to conduct the ministry of Jesus Christ in ways that assure the physical and emotional safety and spiritual growth of all our children and youth as well as the adults who work with them by adhering to the following:

follow reasonable safety measures when selecting and recruiting adults to work with children and/or youth

implement prudent operational procedures in all areas of programming and care

train our workers with children and/or youth in our procedures and policies

have a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse/neglect that conforms to the requirements of the New England Conference and New Hampshire State law.

Conclusion

In all of our ministries, this congregation is committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ so each child, youth and vulnerable adult will be "surrounded by steadfast love... established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal." (*Baptismal Covenant II, United Methodist Book of Worship*).