

FUMC Safe Sanctuary Policy Summary

Purpose of the Policy The purpose of the Safe Sanctuaries policy is to create a safe nurturing environment to facilitate our relationships with vulnerable persons. It also serves to ensure that adults interacting with vulnerable persons at FUMC have clear guidelines which help to protect them as well.

Definition of Vulnerable Person Vulnerable Persons include persons under eighteen years of age or any person who has a physical condition that substantially impairs their ability to care for their own needs.

Two Adult Principle Two adults must be present for all activities involving vulnerable persons; no one staff person or volunteer adult may be left alone with a vulnerable person.

Expectations of adults working with vulnerable persons:

Submit forms for a background check every two years.

Self-report -report to the church office any citation or charge made against them involving offenses alleging injury to person.

Fill out driver forms if providing transportation. No one may provide transportation services if they have not followed through with this screening.

Treat all persons with respect and consideration.

Use language and behavior consistent with our Christian faith.

Never use physical discipline, humiliate another, inappropriately touch another person, flirt with a youth or another adult.

Interact with vulnerable persons in a public environment and not behind closed doors.

When a medical emergency arises, call 911 as appropriate and otherwise act according to the provisions of that person's medical release and authorization form.

When an adult enters an area where there is scheduled programming for vulnerable persons, provide that person with assistance. If, however, they are threatening, contact appropriate authorities.

Never use controlled substances, weapons or illegal or controlled drugs or use other illegal materials.

Never have private interactions with vulnerable persons via social media, texting or email.

Discipline through verbal correction.

Use physical discipline only when necessary because the person is in imminent danger of harming themselves or others. Such physical discipline should only be used to the least extent necessary to protect the vulnerable person or others involved.

Expectations of vulnerable persons participating in FUMC programming:

Remain onsite and attend all activities associated with that program.

Observe curfew and stay out of rooms designated for persons of the opposite gender.

Never use tobacco, drugs or alcohol.

Respect the person, property and equipment of others.

Respect people regardless of age, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, gender or physical differences.

Use language and engage in conduct consistent with the Christian faith.

Expectations of parents or guardians of vulnerable persons:

Complete and sign activity or event registration and authorization forms required for the activity or event.

Accompany vulnerable persons to and from the location of programming, making sure two adults are present before leaving a vulnerable person.

Promptly pick up your vulnerable persons at the conclusion of an event.

Abuse Instances of abuse must be reported to designated staff, pastors and/or law enforcement.

Sex Offenders Known sex offenders will be screened through court records and relevant data bases. FUMC will determine whether the person is under supervision by the courts and whether their participation at FUMC should be limited or if supervision of that participation is needed.