

Safe Sanctuaries

Core Creek Methodist Church

Purpose:

To protect all children and adults who visit our church campus and attend church sponsored events.

Definitions:

1. For the purposes of this policy,

- a) "Young People" designates all who are under 18 years of age, and all those who are vulnerable, (such as the homeless, or in other need), mentally challenged, or others who could reasonably be considered vulnerable.
- b) Adult Supervisor or Chaperone designates anyone who is acting on behalf of the church and has been approved to serve in such a capacity.
 - I) The pastor of the church and all members of the Church Council are approved to be adult supervisors or chaperones.
 - II) A person serving as an adult supervisor or chaperone for young people's activities of the church must have been in regular attendance in the church for at least 6 months.

Policy:

1. Adult Supervision:

- a) Adults must be approved by the Pastor, Lay Leader, or Church Council Chair, and pass a background check to serve as an adult supervisor.
- b) Anyone who has a qualifying background check less than 12 months old may present the written report of that background check to fulfill the background check requirement. Anyone who works in law enforcement, fire, EMS, schoolteacher, or any other government job requiring a background check is exempt from this requirement. Background checks will be renewed every 5 years.
- c) Adult supervisors or chaperones must be at least 25 years old.

- d) A minimum of two chaperones are required for each gathering; and a ratio of one adult for every seven children/youth (i.e. 2 adults for 7 young people; 2 adults for 14 young people; 3 adults for 21 young people).

2. Transportation and driving:

- a) Only chaperones with a valid NC driver's license may drive transportation vehicles for the group.
- b) Young people may not provide transportation for other young people.
- c) Parental written authorization for a young person to provide his/her own transportation when traveling is permitted; however, no other young person may share the vehicle when the group travels, regardless of parental permission, unless the young people are siblings, and the travel arrangements are approved by their parents.

3. Counseling Young People:

- a) All counseling of young people shall be done in open and visible areas and/or with another adult present who is unrelated to the counselor.

4. Families of young people should have ample advanced notice of events, programs, transportation plans, etc.

5. Permission and Medical Release forms must be filled out by the family of each young person before the event; emergency contact numbers are required information.

6. Covenant of Conduct documents must be signed by all adults and young people participating in church sponsored activities for young people.

7. For events requiring overnight accommodations, parents may be housed in the same room as their child. Adults may not be housed with unrelated young people of the opposite gender.

8. Pre-plan response and communication in the event of emergency or accident: It is recommended that each group gathering should have an adult trained in first aid/CPR. A first aid to-go-bag should always accompany a group outing. (Should be coordinated with the Safety Committee under the Trustees.)

9. Anyone who may pose a threat to children and/or youth, as determined by our church SPRC in consultation with the pastor, will be prohibited from working with children or youth in our church.