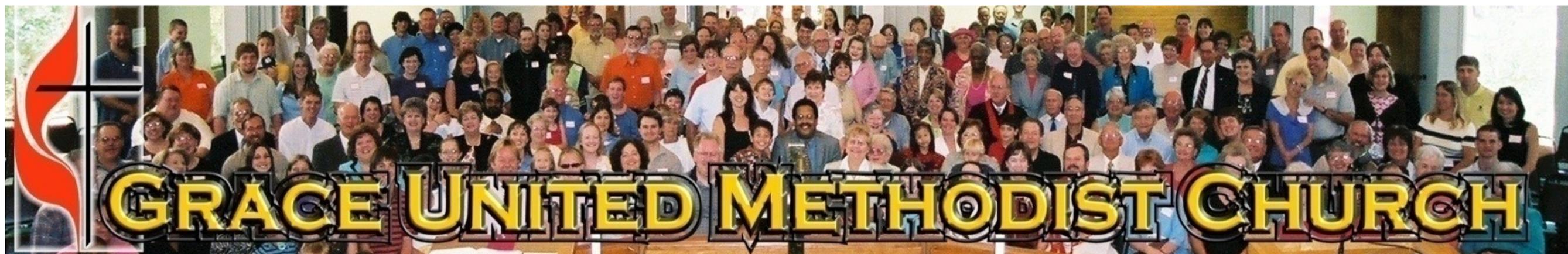


Safe Sanctuary Policy



What is it and how did it come about?

- In 1996, the United Methodist General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body, passed a resolution calling on every church to develop policies and procedures to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse in its ministries and facilities.

Our Purpose Here At Grace

- Our purpose for establishing this Child Abuse Prevention 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.

Our Covenant Here At Grace

- Grace United Methodist Church hereby pledges to conduct the ministry of Jesus Christ in ways that assure the physical and emotional safety, and spiritual growth of all of our children, youth, and vulnerable adults as well as all of our workers with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. We will follow reasonable safety measures when selecting and recruiting workers; we will implement appropriate operational procedures in all areas of programming and care; we will train our workers with children and youth on our procedures and policies; and we will have a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse consistent with South Carolina state law.

Who This Policy Applies To

- All compensated and non-compensated workers of Grace United Methodist Church working with children/youth in the following areas:
 - Choir Vacation Bible School Sunday School teachers
 - Drama Productions United Methodist Youth Fellowship Bible Study
 - Unpaid youth volunteers
 - Anyone going on an overnight trip with children/youth
 - Anyone driving or riding in a vehicle in which children/youth will be traveling
 - Those volunteers engaged in the supervision and care of children/youth on Grace United Methodist Church property or at church-sponsored events held off-site.

What Do I Have to Do?

- Complete an application
- Provide three references
- Have a Background Check at no cost to the individual
- Attend a brief training session

What About the Confidentiality of My Information?

- The church will keep confidential all information received in the application process. Selection information will be marked as such and stored in a locked location with limited access afforded only to church staff and others with a need to know.

Again – Why Are We Having To Do This?

- To insure to our present and future members that we are serious about making our children, youth and vulnerable adults safe.
- To protect our staff and volunteers from accusations of abuse.
- Liability – We would no longer be able to get insurance without this policy.

In Conclusion

In all of our ministries with children, youth, and vulnerable adults, this congregation is committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ so that 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*, p. 96).

Safe Sanctuary Committee Members

- SPRC Rep.: Katie Hardee-Scouts
- Youth Counselor: Sam Jones – Human Resources
- Children’s Rep.: Judy Copley –Human Resources – Scouts
- Music: Blakely Cahoon Attorney
- Sunday School: Susan Floyd - Educator
- Scouting: Billie Thompson – Nurse
- Scouting: Kim Neel – Insurance
- Children’s Choir: Kimberly Roberts - Educator
- Chair: Larry Kearse – Educator
- Pastor: Alex Stevenson