

Fairfax Faith Communities in Action



*Virginia United Methodist practices for
reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect*

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Safe Sanctuaries

Best Practices in reducing the risk

- A means of reducing the risk (as opposed to eliminating it!)
- A faith community function
 - First step – gather resources
 - Second – task group (a corporate process)
 - Third – formal approval and implementation

Areas to consider:

- Nursery
- Church School / Religious education
- Weekday childcare, children's groups
- Youth, including transpiration, overnights, mentoring
- Hiring staff and recruitment of volunteers
- Response play to allegations of abuse
- Plan for caring after incident of abuse
- Ongoing training for all
- Regular review of policies

Basic Best Practices for Safe Ministry with Children

- *Two Adult Rule* (avoiding secrecy and isolation)
- *First Aid / CPR Training*
- *Annual Orientation for Workers*
- *“Five-Years-Older” rule*
- *No workers under 18 years old*
- *Windows in all classroom doors*
- *Open-door counseling*
- *Advance notice to parents*
- *Participation covenants*
- *Adequate insurance*



Electronic Communication

Reducing the risks for children & youth

Your Logo

Ethics II

Conversations in Ethics for Spiritual Leaders



- **A day long workshop for Virginia United Methodist spiritual leaders**

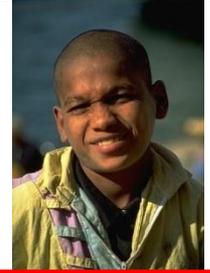
Virginia Conference workshop on Reporting suspected child abuse & neglect



The Goal of the training is to:

- Recognize signs of child abuse and neglect
- Understand the role as spiritual leaders in reporting suspected child abuse and neglect
- Learn about resources helpful in both reporting of suspected abuse & neglect and resources available when an incident occurs in the church
- Encourage development of “safe sanctuary” policy and procedures in the congregations.

Virginia Conference workshop on Reporting suspected child abuse & neglect



Mandated workshop includes:

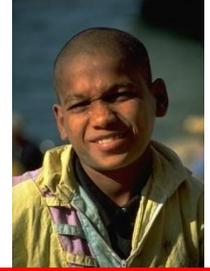
- Using state education training site to learn to recognize signs of child abuse and neglect
- Explore concerns of confidential communication
- Use of case-based scenarios to process learning
- Interact with a local CPS representative to see them as part of the “care team” for stressed families
- Pastoral care perspectives

Pastoral care for:

- The most vulnerable/ the abused child
- The community
- The abuser



Don't get lost



*It's all about caring for children, youth and
the most vulnerable among us*