

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CONNERSVILLE, INDIANA

## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY - ADOPTED MAY 21, 2008

It is the policy of The Presbyterian Church of Connerville, Indiana, herein known as *the church*, to provide a spiritually enriching, educational and safe environment for its youth. Youth, for the purposes of this policy means any child under age 18. The church recognizes that a written policy can help protect our youth. The following has been adopted by the church's session as guide to help ensure the safety of our youth, for the protection of our paid staff and volunteers, and as a guide for appropriate behavior.

All applicants for paid positions in the church will be required to consent in writing to a criminal background and reference check.

All volunteers who work with youth will be required to consent in writing to a criminal background check.

No individual with any criminal record will be permitted to work with youth, whether in a paid or volunteer position.

No volunteer will be accepted for work with youth until the volunteer has been active in the life of the church for at least six continuous months.

At least two workers (paid or volunteer) shall be present at all times an all church activities attended by youth. The only exceptions to this are:

- When the activity takes place in the church building, the door to the room where the activity is occurring is left open and there are others in the building at the same time.
- During counseling sessions with the clergy when written parental permission for one-on-one counseling has been given.

Anyone who reasonably believes there has been an incident of child abuse or neglect, as defined below in Prohibited Activities, shall immediately comply with all state law reporting requirements. In Fayette County, such reports are to be made to Connerville Police Department. In addition, the pastor or an elder shall be notified immediately. Thereafter the pastor, or an elder will notify the church's attorney and the Presbytery and a response will be coordinated with legal advice and Presbytery's assistance.

**PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.** No person shall touch, interact with or communicate with any child or youth for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification. No child or youth can consent to any sexual activity with an adult. No person shall engage in conduct or activity that harms or threatens the physical, mental, emotional or spiritual health or well-being of any child or youth or deprives any child or youth of physical, emotional, mental or spiritual necessities.

By signing and dating below I attest that I have read and understand the church protection policy. I also attest that I comply with the criminal record provision. I also consent to a criminal background and reference check.

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Applicant/Volunteer

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Witness

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Date

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Date