

SAFE SANCTUARIES 2007

Basic Rules for Children's Ministry

RULE 1: The "two-adult rule" requires no fewer than 2 adults present at all times during any church-sponsored program, event, or ministry involving children. The significance of this rule cannot be overstated. A church will drastically reduce the possibility of an incident of child abuse if this rule is followed. In cases where this places a great stress upon the congregation, the only other option is to let the second adult be a floater among children's classes or groups.

RULE 2: Provide first aid and CPR training on an annual basis for all church workers with children or always have phone access to a person who has first aid and CPR training.

RULE 3: All workers with children, whether they are paid, volunteer, part-time, full-time, clergy or lay, will be required to attend an orientation session once. At this session they will be informed of policies and procedures. Once a year each worker will also be required to renew a covenant to uphold these policies.

RULE 4: No workers under the age of 18 shall work with infants. If youth, under the age of 18, work with children, they must be doing it in a training capacity with an adult.

RULE 5: Each room set aside for children must have a door with a window, or a half door or an open door with a gate.

RULE 6: A basic rule is to always give the parents advance notice and full information regarding events. Give handout information sheets. Get written permission from parents for child's participation.

RULE 7: Require criminal background checks on all children's workers. Let those persons who have been around a long time set the example by getting theirs first.

RULE 8: Make all your children's events - Safe Sanctuaries Events. Have signs stating such.

RULE 9: Every church should be insured for the scope of its ministry. Each church needs to have a good relationship with its insurance agent.

RULE 10: All workers with children must know the state requirements in reporting abuse to law enforcement authorities and child protective services. In NC you are mandated, if there is reasonable cause, to report suspected cases of child abuse.

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL WNCC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH