

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Alabama-West Florida Conference

Our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is made easier when we provide a safe place in which God's love can be shared. To accomplish that safe place, the Conference Board of Trustees has provided the *Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards*. *The Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards* is found on page 103 of the 2016 Alabama-West Florida Conference *Brochure of Reports* and on the conference website at www.awfumc.org/awfsafesanctuaries.

It is not the intent of the Conference Board of Trustees that the *Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards* be a burden to the local church. The Policy is meant to be one of the many tools the pastor and lay leader have at their disposal to ensure the safety of children, youth, and vulnerable adults. As good stewards of our church and its ministries, we encourage an atmosphere where church members and visitors will know the children, youth, and vulnerable adults are surrounded by people committed to ensuring a safe environment.

At Charge Conference, while the leadership is present and the business of the church is accomplished, the Conference Board of Trustees encourages you to take a moment to acknowledge the need for and emphasis on a Safe Sanctuaries Policy that is part of every conversation involving any ministry with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. We ask that you sign this document to affirm you have taken time during Charge Conference to recognize the importance of a Safe Sanctuaries Policy and will make it a vital part of every ministry with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Any church that does not have the local policy will use the Conference Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards as its local policy.

****The church is to attach its current Safe Sanctuaries Policy****

Please list any areas of concern, share a success story, or let us know if you have a question:

Name of Church

Pastor(s) Signature

Trustee Chair Signature

Ministry Representatives

District Superintendent Signature

Charge Conference Date