

Take the steps to become a Safe Sanctuary

What is Safe Sanctuary?

- Safe Sanctuary is not just abuse prevention. It does include that – but, a lot more.
- Safe Sanctuary creates a safe environment for all persons connected with your congregation, presbytery, synod, camp, or event.
- Safe Sanctuary provides a safe place for all persons to worship and grow in their faith.
- Safe Sanctuary encourages awareness of the church's insurance coverage needs and financial record keeping.
- Safe Sanctuary applies to functions at the church as well as times when church groups are away from the property.
- Safe Sanctuary develops a plan that will keep everyone safe during an unexpected event such as:
 - Medical Emergency
 - Weather Related Emergency
 - Fire
 - Community Disaster
 - Missing Child

What is required of my congregation?

The 183rd General Assembly directed congregations, presbyteries, synods, camps, and events to have a Safe Sanctuary plan. The deadline to have these plans in place was December 31, 2015. When you have completed your Safe Sanctuary policy, it should be filed with the Office of the General Assembly.

What are the steps in becoming a Safe Sanctuary?

1. The church session, or other appointed committee, will lead the congregation through the **Checklist for Child Protection and Church Emergency Management Plan** and create a safe sanctuary plan and policy for the church. The checklist and sample forms and policies may be found at <http://ministrycouncil.cumberland.org/safesanctuary>.
2. Form a Crisis Management Team who will be trained to assist the congregation in times of unexpected events and assist in maintaining the church's Safe Sanctuary policy.
3. File your Safe Sanctuary policy with the Office of the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2015.

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