

SAFE CHURCH NEWS

Diocese of Fond du Lac

Safe Church Task Force

February 2017



The policy of the Diocese of Fond du Lac is that Child Abuse and Sexual Misconduct by a Church Worker will not be tolerated.

IT'S ABOUT CREATING A "SAFER" CHURCH

Every leader can help make a "safer" church by taking online courses about the prevention of abuse and misconduct.

These interactive courses, developed by educational training leader Praesidium, are available to Episcopal Church members at no cost.

Even if you've taken such courses in the past, all church leaders are expected to take them again to help create a "safer" church.

"In the trust that proceeds from our Baptismal covenant, people in the church give power to leaders, trusting that both lay and ordained leaders will place the interests and welfare of those in their care above their own interests; trusting that leaders will use their position and power wisely for the well-being of children and adults."

– Diocesan Prevention Policy Manual

EDUCATION

To help educate church workers about prevention, online courses through the Safeguarding Online™ programs of Praesidium, are available at no cost to. A number of recent studies report when prevention information is presented online, it is as effective or more effective compared to presentations in-person.

The resulting increase in prevention awareness and the likelihood participants will report or take direct action with situations of abuse or misconduct is what diocesan policy is all about: to **prevent**, to **educate** and to **respond** appropriately.

PREVENTION REPORT INCLUDED

Enclosed please find the **Abuse Prevention Course Report** for your congregation. This report shows who from your congregation has completed what since abuse prevention courses began over twenty years ago. The intent of the courses is to reduce the likelihood that incidents will occur and there is appropriate response if allegations have been made.

A couple of important points about these reports:

- Clergy are not included in congregational reports. They are listed on a diocesan report reviewed by the Bishop.
- If there is someone listed that shouldn't be on your list, please send an email telling us to prevention@diofdl.org.
- If someone you expect to be on the list doesn't appear, please send us an email asking about it to prevention@diofdl.org.

If there are leaders in your congregation who are not listed and should be, please contact them and remind them of the need to complete these online abuse prevention courses...for a safer church.

ALL LEADERS CALLED TO ACTION

All church leaders who perform a specific job or duty for the church, whether an employee or volunteer, should take these courses. And if it has been more than three years since you've taken them before, it's time to take them again. This includes clergy, vestry members, youth workers, ministry coordinators. Doing so benefits both the individual and the church as a whole. It also makes a "safer" church!

TAKE ACTION

ENROLL in (never enrolled before) or **LOGIN** (enrolled previously) to Safeguarding Online™ at diofdl.org/prevention. Additional directions are provided there.

Take any course at any time, day or night. Courses you should take depends on your role and involvement in the church. Each takes about 15 minutes and involves interactive questions and answers, audio and some video. All do not have to be completed in one sitting, but if you have to exit before completion, you'll return to the place where you left off. When completed, you can print a Certificate of Completion.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

10 courses with those needed depending on your function. You may complete additional courses.

SET A: Completed courses over three years ago

- Abuse Prevention Refresher
- Your Policies

SET B: Never completed courses

B1—Occasional volunteers under supervision (Sunday School teachers, nursery worker every few months, parent assisting youth event)

- Abuse Risk Management for Occasional Volunteers
- Your Policies

B2—Regular volunteers (Sunday School director, nursery workers, youth group volunteers, camp staff)

- Meet Sam
- It Happened to Me
- Preventing Sexual Activity Between Young Children
- Keeping Your Church Safe
- Your Policies

B3—All clergy and lay employees

- Meet Sam
- It Happened to Me
- Preventing Sexual Activity Between Young Children

- Keeping Your Church Safe
- Duty To Report
- Your Policies

SET C: [In addition to A or B] Clergy, lay employees and volunteers in a special setting

C1—Diocesan summer camp

- Keeping Your Camp Safe

C2—Day long/multi-day activity (e.g. Vacation Bible School)

- A Day at Day Camp

ADULT MISCONDUCT PREVENTION COURSES

5 courses with those needed depending on your function. You may complete additional courses.

SET D: Clergy, lay employees, volunteers in leadership (example, wardens, vestry members, Executive Council members)

- Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Exploitation in Communities of Faith-for Congregations
- Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Harassment for Workers
- Your Policies

SET E: [In addition to C]. Clergy, lay employees and volunteers in a special setting.

E1—Regular in a specialized ministry (e.g. feeding program)

- Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Exploitation in Communities of Faith-for Ministries

E2—For clergy and lay employees with supervisory duties

- Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Harassment for Managers & Supervisors

If you have any questions about which courses are needed, please call the Diocesan Office at (920) 830-8866.

The Goal Is A Safer Church