

Trinity United Methodist Church
Safe Sanctuaries Policy

Background Checks – Anyone who is interested in working with children and youth of the church needs an updated CORI check each year. Note, the results of the CORI may necessitate further conversation with the potential volunteer or preclude them from volunteering with children and youth. Such decisions will be left to staff discretion. Violent or sexual offenses will automatically preclude individuals from volunteering with children and youth.

Two Adult Rule – Our objective is to have two adults, a primary and secondary adult, present when working with children and youth in any capacity. When only one adult is present in the class room, the door to the room must remain open. In situations where only one adult is present in a classroom or program area, a “floater” should be designated. The “floater” will move throughout the occupied spaces to ensure that children and youth are safe. Some responsibilities of the “floater” are to escort children to bathrooms, periodically look into classrooms, and make sure children and youth are not moving alone throughout the building.

Five Year Older Rule – The primary and secondary adults responsible for any children or youth programming must be at least five years older than the oldest child or youth participating.

No Workers Under the Age of Eighteen – No person under the age of 18 will be left in charge of children or youth in any situation. After proper consultation with the Director of Family Ministries and Connections, children and youth under the age of 18 are welcome to assist the primary or secondary adult

Six Months Rule – All volunteers serving as the primary adult with children and youth must be active in the life of the Trinity for at least six months.

Open Door Policy – If rooms in which children or youth are participating in a church program lack windows or doors with windows, doors must be left partially open. If the windows have curtains, those curtains must be fully open.

Open Door Counseling – Doors need to be partially open at all times during any one-on-one counseling or meeting with children or youth.

Confidentiality – It is essential to maintain confidentiality with children and youth except when it is revealed that somebody has been, is, or might be subject to harm of any kind. If a volunteer becomes aware of a situation in which a child or youth has been, is, or might be subject to harm, they should immediately share that information with the Director of Family Ministries and Connections and the Lead Pastor. If the situation does not merit the legal requirements of mandated reporting, further disclosure will be left to staff discretion.

Unknown Visitors – Staff and volunteers should refuse adults with no clear rationale or purpose for their presence at children and youth programming events. Such visitors should be directed to contact the church during business hours.