

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SAFE SANCTUARIES POLICY

Background Checks – Anyone who is working with children and youth of the church needs an updated background check each year.

Two Adult Rule - Our goal is to have two adults 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 will remain open. A “floater”, a person such as the Church School greeter or other volunteer will look in on classrooms while church school is in session. This person will move in and out of the classrooms or view rooms from the window. A “floater” will constitute the “Two Adult Rule” when only one adult is available.

Five Year Older Rule - A volunteer (other than supervised youth volunteers) or paid staff member must be five years older than the oldest youth they are supervising.

No Workers Under The Age of Eighteen - No person under the age of 18 will be left in charge of children/youth in any situation. They would be welcome to assist another adult.

6 Month Rule – All volunteers in a leadership position with children and youth must be an active member of Trinity for at least 6 months. This enables us to get to know the person and better discern what roles might be the best fit.

Open Door Policy - Since Trinity United Methodist Church does not have clear glass windows in all its rooms, doors to meeting rooms, involving children and youth, need to be left partially open.

Open Door Counseling - Doors need to be partially open at all times during any one-on-one counseling and/or meeting while working with children/youth in the church.

Confidentiality - It is essential to maintain confidentiality with children and youth except when it is revealed that somebody has been, is, or would be subject to harm of any kind. Such information must be passed on to those who can help. Children, youth, parents, and adult workers need to be reminded that such is the case.

Safe Environment – It is our intention to provide a safe and well-supervised environment wherever our ministry may lead us. Sometimes people stop by the church on a Sunday looking for money or other things. These people may be nice and nonthreatening, but we do not know them and they should not be hanging around the children. If there is someone asking for money or hanging around the children’s classrooms for no apparent reason, please tell them to go upstairs. If the person refuses to leave, tell someone at the registration table, and they can call someone for help. Or, call a sexton.