

## **POLICY FOR SEX OFFENDERS**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Church affirms the need of all men to come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are committed to being a religious community open to those who are in need of worshiping with us, especially in times of serious personal troubles. However, based on your background, we have concerns about your contact with children, vulnerable adults and youth in our congregation. We are called as a church to be a shepherd of souls but we are also called to protect the flock. In recognition of the fact that sins against children are especially heinous and vile, and incur a greater judgment (see Luke 17:2), the following guidelines are designed to reduce the risk to both you, our children, vulnerable adults and our youth of an incident or accusation. We welcome you to our congregation but your participation will be limited to ensure the safety of our children, vulnerable adults and youth and to assure that you will not be subject to future accusations.

The church is a place of hospitality, we embrace the Gospel's mandate to protect, "the least of these" particularly children, vulnerable adults and teens. So each sex offender will be dealt with on an individual basis.

The church board will be responsible for the following duties.

- The congregation will be informed of any known sex offender in the congregation.
- The board will take any covenant with a sex offender very seriously.
- When new members join the church, they will be told about this policy and covenant.
- Safe guards will be set up for the congregation's safety.
- The board may seek recommendations outside the church body from professional council as deemed necessary.

### **SAFE GUARDS:**

- Church grounds should be monitored and patrolled by at least two members who are in good standing. These will include the following, parking lot, hallways, restrooms, classrooms, fellowship hall, youth buildings, young couples Sunday school building and doors will be locked during Children's Church.
- All employees and volunteers will have background checks. These will include the following; pastor, associate pastor, music minister, Sunday school teachers and any volunteers who work with children for any reason.
- All children activities need to be calendared so that appropriate security can be provided.
- All incidents need to be reported and actions taken to be put on file.
- All children need to be properly supervised whenever they leave the classroom or activity for any reason.
- All children need to be picked up by their parent/guardian or someone that has been properly designated by the parent/guardian.

- Sex offender list needs to be periodically checked for any offenders in the surrounding counties and communities.

We will examine each sex offender upon their record and their actions, also consulting with the law enforcement of our area and surrounding areas to see what level the sex offender is listed. This will enable the church board to decide what level of risk he or she would be and determine if the person can be allowed to participate in any way with the \_\_\_\_\_ Church, he or she will have to sign and follow the guidelines set up by the church.