

CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SAFE SANCTUARIES POLICY

Revised Spring, 2018

The Cheshire United Methodist Church (CUMC) is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all preschoolers, children, youth and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by our church. The following policy statements reflect our commitment to preserving this church as a holy place of safety and protection for all who would enter and as a place in which all people can experience the love of God through relationships with others.

BASIC PROCEDURES for SAFE MINISTRY with CHILDREN and YOUTH

Each of the following procedures is important in a congregation's comprehensive prevention strategy.

The Six Months Involvement Rule requires all volunteers who work with children and youth to be involved with our organization for at least six months before they are allowed in any position involving contact with minors.

The Two Adult Rule requires no fewer than two adults present at all times during a church sponsored program, event or ministry involving children or youth.

The Five Years Older Rule states that leaders of youth ministry should be a minimum of five years older than the oldest youth.

The No Workers under age 18 means people under age 18 can *assist* a responsible adult, but they should not substitute for an adult under the Two Adult Rule (above).

Any **classroom doors** without windows shall remain open at all times.

Before an offsite event, parents must give **written permission** for their child to participate.