

**LOCAL CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SAFE AND SACRED SPACE PROGRAM
as mandated by
the Kansas East Conference
of The United Methodist Church**

As approved by the Kansas East Annual Conference, June 2001

WHEREAS, in 1995 the Annual Conference of the Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church approved and adopted a policy for the protection of children and youth ("policy") involved in ministries of the Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS, each local church ("the Local Church") in the Annual Conference was encouraged at that time to adopt a similar policy applicable to the personnel, activities and events of the Local Church; and

WHEREAS, all local churches in the Annual Conference have not, as of this date, adopted and implemented such a policy; and

WHEREAS, incidents of child abuse have occurred in the Local Church since the Annual Conference's action and encouragement to local churches to adopt such a policy; and

WHEREAS, the failure of each Local Church in the Annual Conference to adopt such a policy continues to place children, youth; and adults with developmental disabilities in the local church, Local Churches, the lay member of the Local Church, and the Annual Conference at risk; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of every Local Church to protect the well-being of children, youth; and adults with developmental disabilities and personnel who work with them in ministries of the Local Church;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby mandates that each Local Church of the Annual Conference adopt a policy for the protection of children, youth; and adults with developmental disabilities no later than January 1, 2002, and such policy shall be implemented in each local church by the 2002 session of annual conference; and

Be it further resolved that local church policies shall incorporate at least the following components:

1. Apply to all paid staff and volunteers who work with children, youth; and/or adults with developmental disabilities.
2. Emphasize a team approach to ministry
3. Require a screening process for all workers
4. Address both physical and sexual abuse
5. Require all workers to be trained by a Conference-certified trainer
6. Specify a procedure for the reporting of incidents; and

Be it further resolved that the Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church shall make available to each Local Church sample policies and crisis management materials, on-going training seminars, and forms and procedures for screening for persons in a role of leadership with children, youth; and adults with developmental disabilities.