

GCRC Safe Church Ministry Vision:

The Safe Church Team vision is that all people [of all ages] at Georgetown Christian Reformed Church are free to worship and grow in a safe place, free from any threat of abuse. That all relationships are open and honest; the infinite value of ALL people is honored. Where abuse has occurred, the church ALWAYS responds with compassionate justice that fosters healing.

All Safe Church team members are expected to work in some capacity toward the above vision. All safe church team members are to participate in attaining the guiding goals for safe church as indicated below:

Guiding Goals for Safe Church:

- The church has a written Safe Church/abuse prevention policy in place. These policies and procedures are to be updated when required with changing times.
- Screening in form of security clearances that include vulnerable sector screening to be done for staff, council members and each volunteer of child/youth/vulnerable every five years.
- Annual review and training for staff and volunteers working with children, youth, and vulnerable populations. Code of ethics - stating you understand the safe church policies and procedures to be signed annually during the review.
- Annual review at council – updates to be approved.
- Review by church's insurance when required for renewal of insurance
- Allegations of abuse by a church leader are taken very seriously and never minimized or hidden. Every church has protocols in place for responding to misconduct by a church leader, which are carefully followed.
- Issues of abuse can be freely discussed. This means that abuse is acknowledged and that the basic dynamics of abuse are understood.
- Leadership at all levels is committed to the importance of Safe Church Ministry and supports Safe Church in a variety of ways.

RESPONDING TO ACCUSATION OF ABUSE – See Blue Binder in GCRC Office.

SAFE CHURCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES - See Green Binder in GCRC Office OR Policies and Guidelines section of the GCRC Council Manual (on church website).

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