

January 2006

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Enclosed you will find The Diocese of Maryland's new Statement of Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth. The Safe Church Committee is delighted to have finished this task after two years of study, prayer, revision and editing.

In keeping with the Baptismal Covenant, we envision every child- and youth-related parish or diocesan program as a Christian community intentionally marked by mutual respect, safety from physical, emotional, verbal and psychological violence, genuine hospitality, a willingness to learn and act in Christ-like love, and forgiveness and reconciliation when there is failure. These policies form the foundation for programs that will help us live into our vision of creating a safe place for all of God's children.

This document establishes high expectations for ministries with children and youth. Some of these policies challenge us to rise above what has become normative in today's popular culture, and to respond in a way that speaks of our commitment to the Baptismal Covenant. Therefore, all persons whose lives and ministries are affected by these policies are invited to engage in dialogue regarding the rationale behind them - from a legal, moral, and Christian perspective.

We hope and pray that you will read these policies and share them with all wardens, vestry, parish day schools and leadership. To that end, rectors and leaders of organizations should please sign and return the attached form to Evie Wagner, 4 East University Parkway, Baltimore, Maryland 21218 or e-mail her at ewagner@ang-md.org.

The Safe Church Committee stands ready to help this important dialogue continue in our diocese. To enable this conversation, we will hold two open meetings on **Monday, March 13 at 11am and 5pm in the Peabody Room at the Diocesan Center**. Please bring any questions you may have for our discussion. Or if you have questions and are unable to attend, or if you would like someone to come and speak in your parish or organization, please contact us.

In Christ's Love and Service,



The Rev. T. Stewart Lucas
Safe Church Committee, Co-chair
Co-chair
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410-669-0220



Mrs. Gwen Spicer
Safe Church Committee,
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410-339-4160

**Acknowledgment of Receipt of
A STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN &
YOUTH**

Name: _____

Parish or Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

I have read the STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF
CHILDREN & YOUTH from the Safe Church Committee.

- _____ I have read the policies and discussed them with the wardens. We have shared the statement's implications for our congregation with the vestry.

- _____ I have made copies available to the leadership of our organization. We have discussed the statement's implications for our organization with the board.

- _____ I understand that the Safe Church Committee is ready to help us continue the dialogue about keeping our children safe. I also know that this document and other resources are available online at www.ang-md.org.

Signature of _____
Rector/ Leader of Organization _____ Date: _____

Please return this information by May 1, 2006 to:

Ms. Evelyn Wagner
Coordinator of Human Resources
4 E. University Parkway
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
(800) 443-1399
(410) 467-1399
(410)-554-6387 Fax or by e-mail: ewagner@ang-md.org

Office use only:

Date received: _____