

<Insert Church Name Here>

Background

The Episcopal Church has always strived to be a safe place for all to gather, to learn, and to worship. To that end, for decades we have had programs in place to set standards and provide education for protecting the vulnerable among us. As with all things, these programs must be reviewed and improved periodically. General Convention in 2015 called for this review, the result of which was a set of Model Policies and associated training to be enacted church wide. Diocesan Council approved the new Safe Church policies for the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma in November of 2022.

These new policies replace outdated policies and training from the early 2000's. These newer policies call for a higher level of accountability in our ministries, parishes, and in the diocese. With them, we will be protecting a greater range of people including both children and adults to keep those who are most vulnerable safe from harm.

Guarding them is work and requires attention to detail. An increase in accountability, by necessity brings additional responsibility to maintain accurate and timely reports as well as to implement and follow the policies and procedures. We should remember that we are not being penalized for what has been done in the past, we simply seek improvement.

While implementation may at first feel complicated and onerous, by our Baptismal Covenant we are called to strive for justice and peace. In this case that means to strive to improve our protection of the vulnerable from “good” to better – even to best practices.

Policy Statement

<Insert Church Name Here> considers the safety of its employees, parishioners, volunteers, guests and property to be of paramount importance and believes that key control is a major component of a comprehensive security program. It is the responsibility of each key holder to ensure procedures are followed to maintain the security and safety of everyone at <insert church name here>.

Agreement

To accomplish these goals, <insert church name here> has adopted a policy to assure that everyone with a code to the church has had training in Safe Church Training and has completed the necessary background checks as required by the Safe Church policies.

By receiving an access code for <insert church name here>, I commit to upholding the following rules:

I confirm that I have completed all required Safe Church training modules for my role and the Praesidium administrator at <insert church name here> has acknowledged my completion of all required training modules.

I agree to take any future training modules required by <insert church name here> Praesidium administrator in a timely manner.

I agree not to share my code with another individual or group.

I agree to report any code that has been shared or acquired by another individual or group.

I agree to inform <insert church name here> when I no longer need access to the property or the term of my ministry granting me access has expired.

Signature

Printed Name

Date