

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
Dunwoody, Georgia
Children and Youth Protection Policy
Adopted by Session, June 24, 2007

Purpose:

It is the purpose and intent of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church to provide a safe, secure environment in which to teach and care for the children and youth of our church and community.

Policy:

1. Children and youth are defined as persons from birth to 18 years of age.
2. At least two (non-spousal) adult workers shall be present at all activities involving children or youth. At no time will only one worker be allowed to be alone with a child or youth. This policy helps protect adult workers as well as children and youth. The only exceptions to the two-adult rule would be situations in which the adult and child or youth are in a public place or other persons are in and out of the area or room. The policy is not intended to restrict appropriate pastoral counseling and care-giving.
3. No person with substantiated incidents of physical or sexual child abuse, exploitation or other forms of sexual misconduct will be allowed to work or volunteer in any position involving children or youth.
4. Employees and volunteers in designated positions (as determined by the appropriate Session committee) will receive child and youth protection training.
5. Employees and volunteers in designated positions (as determined by the appropriate Session committee) will be subject to background and / or driver's license checks. A consent form is attached.
6. If a worker or volunteer has any knowledge or suspicion that abuse or sexual molestation has occurred, he or she will report it immediately to an ordained staff member. The ordained staff member will document the report and initiate an investigation. The worker or volunteer will not engage in questioning the alleged victim or the alleged perpetrator.
7. The following behaviors by any employee or volunteer are prohibited:
 - a. Physical striking, hitting, or spanking a child or youth.
 - b. Touching in an inappropriate or sexual manner.
 - c. Verbally or emotionally abusing a child or youth.

I have received, read, and understand the St. Luke's Presbyterian Church Children and Youth Protection Policy and agree to abide by it. I agree to observe all policies and procedures regarding working with children and youth. I have never been convicted of a child / youth sexual / physical abuse crime. I have never been nor am I currently involved in any abuse of a minor as described above.

Signature

Date

Please Print Name: _____