

## A Beginner's Outline

### How to Reduce the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in Your Church

- 1) An interested person in the church asks 1 or 2 other people to join them in thinking about this issue in their church.
- 2) If the question "Why do we need to do this at our church?" is a priority...
  - a. Ask the Church & Community Committee to come speak to your group (Moderator, Rev. Teresa Kendall, 724-752-8892 or [teresakendall@mac.com](mailto:teresakendall@mac.com))
  - b. Show the WHY or TRUE STORIES section from the "Safe Sanctuaries" DVD (2 DVDs are available at through the Shenango Presbytery Resource Ctr)
  - c. The Church & Community Committee is considering finding speakers from nearby Presbyteries who have had to deal with this issue as folks who could come speak to groups.
- 3) Form an official committee within your congregation, a group of folks who want to work on forming a policy for your church. Appoint a Contact Person.
- 4) The Contact Person contacts the Church & Community Committee for resources (Moderator, Rev. Teresa Kendall, 724-752-8892 or [teresakendall@mac.com](mailto:teresakendall@mac.com))
  - a. Sample policy, including forms created by the Church & Community Committee
  - b. DVD and workbooks from the Methodist Church
  - c. Book, "Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in Your Church"
  - d. Order your free copy of the booklet "We Won't Let It Happen Here!" from Presbyterian Publishing (800-524-2612 PDS #72-651-02-002)
  - e. Check out your congregation's insurance policy to learn what coverage you have and don't have. Speak with your agent to know what protection (if any) you have.
- 5) Write a policy for your church.
- 6) Session must approve the policy. The Contact Person mails a copy to the Church & Community Committee. Church appoints a Designated Reporter.
- 7) Attend training events for teachers and leaders who will be designated and mandated reporters.
  - a. Presbytery events at TeacherFest and LeaderFest.
  - b. Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County and AWARE (Mercer County) offer trainings on various topics.