

## What the Church is Doing

The United Methodist Church has undertaken the task of appointing a committee to study the area of protection for our children and youth and those who provide care and direction for them.

- ☺ Children deserve to grow up free from any kind of abuse or exploitation.
- ☺ Children and youth place their trust in the people who care for them at our church-sponsored programs and events.
- ☺ We value every person as a child of God.

## What We Can Do

- ☺ Educate ourselves as a community of faith about the problem of child sexual abuse.
- ☺ Implement effective prevention programs within our church to create a safe place for all who attend.
- ☺ Provide compassionate support and ministry to the large number of adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.
- ☺ Politically support actions that outlaw child pornography, prostitution, and other types of child sexual exploitation.

## Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with Your God.

Micah 6:8



## Child Protection Information for the United Methodist Church



## You Should Know the Facts

Every 15 seconds, a child in the U.S. is abused or neglected, totaling 2 million children per year.

- ☹ Child sexual abuse can happen in our church.
- ☹ One incident can devastate a child, a family, and our church.
- ☹ The legal liabilities can be enormous.
- ☹ Church leaders may be held liable for damages.
- ☺ A prevention program can reduce the risk through relatively simple procedures.
- ☹ It is estimated that 1 in 3 adult women and 1 in 7 adult men have been abused before the age of 18.

## What National Experts Say

Sexual molestation poses the greatest risk facing the church today. Since 1984, hundreds of cases have gone to court with jury verdicts as high as \$10 million.

Sexual misconduct seems to be one of the most volatile issues in America's churches. Insurance coverage for sexual abuse is weak or nonexistent in most churches. Every church needs to take action to protect its members: young and old. Three churches a day file insurance claims; one of every three is for sexual abuse.

## Sex Abuse Offenders in American Churches

