

Broadway United Methodist Church Safe Sanctuary Covenant

Purpose:

Broadway United Methodist Church is a spiritual community, which takes seriously our responsibility to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all children, youth and vulnerable adults. In keeping with our covenant relationship with God, we embrace this Safe Sanctuary Covenant to reduce the risk of abuse occurring in our ministries. We demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the physical safety, emotional safety, and spiritual growth of all.

Statement of Covenant:

As a community of faith, we welcome all persons – celebrating the human family’s God-given diversity of race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, and physical or mental capacity. We pledge to conduct our ministry in ways that promote the safety and spiritual growth of all. To that end, we covenant that:

- We follow reasonable safety measures in the recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers.
- We implement prudent operational procedures in all programs and events.
- We educate our staff and volunteers who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults regarding the use of appropriate policies and methods, including first aid and methods of discipline.
- We have clearly defined procedures for reporting a suspected incident of abuse which seek to conform to the requirements of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, as well as local and state laws. Our volunteers and staff are instructed to report all suspected incidents of abuse.
- We have clearly defined policies and procedures for maintaining confidentiality for staff, volunteers, and program participants.
- We prepare to respond to inquiries by media and community organizations if an incident occurs.
- We inform parents and guardians of our policies and procedures.
- We provide training for our staff and volunteers who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.
- We provide forums about Safe Sanctuary for our congregation, our staff and volunteers, our clergy, and the public.

Action and Accountability:

In all our ministries, Broadway United Methodist Church is committed to demonstrating the love of Christ through the provision of safe and sacred places where all may learn and grow in faith, spirituality, and community. The Safe Sanctuary Team is accountable for the ongoing formalization, implementation, support, and maintenance of this Safe Sanctuary Covenant. The BUMC community covenants to support and abide by the principles and leadership of the Safe Sanctuary Team.