

Safe Gatherings Guide

2023-2024 Program Year



Starting this program year, Trinity is using *Safe Gatherings*, a resource recommended by the Michigan Conference of the UMC, to facilitate volunteer & staff *registration, background, and reference checks*.

Detailed applicant instructions from *Safe Gatherings* are attached. Below are a few Trinity and Michigan Conference specific notes.

Church Name for Registration

Trinity UMC Grand Rapids

Applicant Type

Church Staff and Volunteers

Driving

The *Safe Gatherings* instructions mention a check box for a DMV check. That box will not appear on your registration. A separate *Volunteer Driver Application Form* will be provided to drivers by Trinity.

References

Three non-related references are required for all applicants not the two that you see listed in the *Safe Gatherings* instructions. One of the references is supposed to be a clergy person. The others can be church staff members, professional references, or lay references. You must have known each person for one year. Below is contact information for applicable church staff members should you want to use any of us as references.

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Mike Desotell (Pastor/Clergy) | m.desotell@grtumc.org | Office Phone: 616-456-7168 |
| Matt Witkowski (Community Ministries Director) | m.witkowski@grtumc.org | |
| Laura Johns (Director of Discipleship) | l.johns@grtumc.org | |
| Randy Burghart (Director of Worship Arts) | r.burghart@grtumc.org | |
| Betsy Weems (Church Administrator) | b.weems@grtumc.org | |

Please note, each reference is sent an email with basic character questions. We highly recommend listing references that are comfortable using email & online forms.

Payment

The *Safe Gatherings* instructions mention a payment screen. This screen will not appear as Trinity is covering the fees for all our candidates.

If you have any trouble navigating the *Safe Gatherings* registration process, please contact us. We are happy to walk you through the steps and arrange group viewings for the online training course.

Our goal is to have all current volunteers complete *Safe Gatherings* by October 1.