



Protection Policy & Safety Training

Modified from the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church
August 2026

Introductions and Opening

- Introductions
- Lunch & Breaks
- Baptismal Covenant
- Opening Prayer

Purpose & Goals

- Why is this important?
- Why it is required?
- What are the benefits?

Policy & Guidelines

Trinity's Protection Policy

- Overview of Protection Policy
- Updated in 2026 – Reflects New Safe Gathering Policy
- Important Definitions
 - Child
 - Youth
 - Vulnerable Adult
 - Authorized Staff or Volunteer

Policy Highlights

- Who Can Volunteer
- Who Is Responsible / When Does Our Policy Apply
- Two Care Provider Rule
- Classroom & Building Use
- Sign-In & Sign-Out Procedures

Policy Highlights – Part 2

- Restrooms
- Good Touch / Consent
- Counseling / Mentoring
- Digital Communication Policy



Questions on Highlights?



Reporting



Content Warning



Abuse & Reporting

- Statistics
- Persons Required to Report
- What Is Your Role
- Event Directors & Director of Discipleship
- Required Reporting Process in 11 Steps



Questions on Reporting?



Paperwork & Training

Required Paperwork & Training

All Requirements On A Three Year Cycle

- Volunteer Interest Form with:
 - Protection Policy Agreement
 - Volunteer Communication Consent
 - Volunteer Photo Release
 - Volunteer Background & Reference Check
 - Volunteer Driver Application (Optional)
- *Safe Gatherings* Background Check & Online Training
- Attend In-Person Trinity Training – Check ✓



New Applicant Start

Applicant Acknowledgement

[Home](#) [Login](#) [Contact](#)

▲ IMPORTANT: READ BEFORE CONTINUING

By proceeding with this application, you acknowledge that you are submitting personal information for the purpose of conducting a background check and completing required training. You will be required to sign authorizations confirming that all information provided is current, complete, and legally accurate.

As you complete your registration, carefully verify your legal name (**no nicknames or preferred names**), Social Security number, date of birth, and driver's license information (if applicable). Inaccurate or outdated information may delay processing and may require reprocessing. Additional fees will apply to you or your organization if reprocessing is necessary.

[I Acknowledge](#)

Renewal Start

Login

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Already have an account?

Login

[Login](#)[Forgot your username](#)[Forgot your password](#)

New Safe Gatherings Application?

[Sign Up](#)

Clergy Ethics Course Only

Not sure? Chat with us.

Application Status

In Progress

Application (Update Profile)	Pending	🕒
Payment	Received	✓
Safe Gatherings Training Course	Not Completed	🕒
Background Check	Pending	🕒
Disclosure Form	View	
Authorization Form	View	

You will receive your Safe Gatherings approval at the email you provided in your application.

[Click here for Training Course](#)

Application (Update Profile)	Approved	✓
Payment	Received	✓
Safe Gatherings Training Course	Completed	✓
Background Check	Completed	✓
Approval Date	08/30/24	
Renewal Date	08/30/27	
Approval Number	4680578753	
Disclosure Form	View	
Authorization Form	View	

Not Due for Renewal

You will receive your Safe Gatherings approval at the email you provided in your application.

[Click here to purchase Training course](#)[Print My Approval](#)

Volunteer Interest Form

Must Be Completed Every Three Years | Date Completed: _____



Personal Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____
Preferred Name: _____ Preferred Pronouns: _____
Street Address: _____ Apt #: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Country: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email Address: _____ No Email: _____
Preferred Spoken Language: _____ Second Language: _____

All About Me

Tell us a little about yourself by briefly completing these statements.

I am passionate about: _____
I am happy to help with: _____
I want to learn how to: _____
Please don't ask me to: _____
I thought you should also know: _____

Volunteer Interest Form – Page 3



Volunteer Photo Release

I hereby authorize and consent to the use of images (still photograph, digital image, or video), with or without my name(s), by Trinity United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids for purposes including but not limited to: promotional materials, printed publications, internet posts including social media, television, and other media sources. I do this with full knowledge and consent and waive all claims for compensation for use or for damages. I release Trinity United Methodist Church its officers, trustees, employees, and agents from liability for any claims by me or any third party in connection with the use of the image.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Volunteer Background & Reference Check

I understand that to work with children, youth & vulnerable adults, I must complete a background & reference check through *Safe Gatherings* (<https://safegatherings.com>). The process must be completed every three years and includes an online training course. To get information on the status of a *Safe Gatherings* check, volunteers can login online or follow-up with Laura Johns, Director of Discipleship.

Please Initial Applicable Line Below, Agreeing That:

To the best of my knowledge, my *Safe Gatherings* background & reference check is current and will not expire during this program year (September to May).

OR

I commit to completing a new *Safe Gatherings* background check within 4 weeks of signing this form and give Trinity permission to run an iChat background check in the meantime to ensure compliance.

Safety

Policy & Resources

- Purple Binders
- Emergency Operations Plans
- Evacuation Maps
- Emergency Alarm
- Radios & Communication
- First Aid, CPR & AED
- Incident / Accident Forms

Questions?