



Safeguarding God's Children Convention Report 2021 *Offered through the Stevenson School for Ministry*

Mission Statement: Safeguarding God's Children curriculum prepares parishes to prevent sexual misconduct toward children within the context of the Episcopal Church. The Goal is to reach every person with this training within the diocese and congregation, pre-schools and childcare and youth entities that have a home in our parishes and relate to children; including those who are employed or works with and ministers to and with children and youth.

Outcomes for 2021

Due to Covid-19 we continued to restructure our training requirements for those who have not had face to face training and for those who are in training to teach SGC in their convocations. A hybrid model was developed through use of zoom and online SGC.

1. Our safe church learning partner, Praesidium, has upgraded to a new training system. Praesidium's Armatus Learn to Protect System, has become Praesidium Academy. Our online administrator for Praesidium Academy, the Rev. Hank Morrow continues to be the contact person for the links to develop user name and password.
2. This upgrade allows for a more robust training experience which will impact our knowledge and awareness of child protection; the modules have been reset, redeveloped, but the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania remains the same and requires all active clergy (including supply), lay employees, vestry members, and volunteers to obtain clearances in order to continue their positions. The law also requires that employees and volunteers be considered mandated reporters of suspected child abuse. All current clergy and employees must be in compliance with these policies, and clearances need to be renewed every 60 months.
3. Training Trainers: 5 new trainers trained predominantly in Harrisburg Convocation and Lancaster Convocation and one for the first time in the Northern Tier. Training Trainers Event are still being done virtually and SGC will continue to mentor new trainers with the hope of establishing trainers in every convocation and eventually every parish.
4. 10 congregations participated in the new hybrid training with one hour of virtual training to go over the policy and procedure manual for the Diocese of Central PA and to be available for questions, with a three module online follow up through SGC online.
5. Encourage parish training to continue to meet administration responsibilities: Copies of the child abuse clearances required of the participants and copies of their certificates of completion are maintained by the individual parishes.
6. Web update with all information including new trainers.



The training process as offered now includes:

1. Collaborative community building around issues of children and youth ministry.
2. Training for all youth leaders and youth leadership for Diocesan Retreats
3. Outreach to smaller parishes and facilitation of collaborative training opportunities.
4. Encouragement for congregations to offer programs for parents.
5. Creation of ongoing communication through the web.
6. Developing an increased community awareness and collective commitment to protect the children of the diocese with zero tolerance.

Respectfully Submitted

The Very Rev. Robyn Szoke-Coolidge