

Safe Church, Safe Communities Convention Report- Fall 2023

“Safe Church, Safe Communities” has replaced the former “Safeguarding God’s Children” in an effort to move from a liability model to a more comprehensive training approach rooted in our Baptismal covenant that encompasses issues of power, ethics, boundaries, and inclusivity to create safe spaces for all, especially children and vulnerable adults.

You can find out more about this transition on The Episcopal Church Safe Church Office website: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/safe-church/>.

I attended the Safe Church Office’s Train-the-Trainer as well as a continuing education session at the Episcopal Youth Event to learn more about Safe Church, Safe Communities.

We have held 2 Train-the-Trainers and trained individuals in the new Safe Church modules while continuing to improve the training and adapt it for Zoom and in-person versions.

In collaboration with Canon Alexis Guszick, we launched a newly updated website with information on Safe Church, Safe Communities, that continues to evolve and be improved: <https://diocesecpa.org/safechurch/>

We adapted the new module requirements to our context, creating requirements for each role in the church and connected organizations in our Diocese.

We facilitated two trainings with the new modules and are continuing to improve the in-person training.

Beginning in May, I held and continue to hold a Safe Church, Safe Communities Office Hour every 2nd Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 pm, which is a time when individuals can ask questions about Safe Church matters.

Beginning in November, we are holding a Lunch & Learn series that will feature each module in the Safe Church, Safe Communities series. It will be held on Zoom from 12-12:30 pm on Tuesdays.

We are holding various informational sessions regarding Safe Church in the month of October, including:

- 2 informational sessions on “What is Safe Church?”
- 1 Safe Church Managers info session for individuals managing the clearances and Safe Church Certifications at their parish or organization.

We are in the process of updating the Model Policy for the Protection of Children, as well as adopting a Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults.

Respectfully submitted by Canon Micalagh Moritz

