

Questions & Answers about The Michigan Conference Protection Policy

What?

This Policy is the result of the work of the Michigan Conference Protection Policy Transition Task Force (MiCPPTF). The membership of the MiCPPTF is comprised of members from the West Michigan and Detroit Protection Policy Committees. This policy was accepted by the vote of the 2017 Annual Conference.

Why?

In 1994, The General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted legislation requiring every Conference to have policies and procedures in place to protect children and youth, and Vulnerable Adults, from abuse. Local churches should have protection policies in place.

Two Different Policies?

Each local church should have their own policy. District events all fall under the Conference policy. This training is for the Conference policy.

Who Does It Protect?

Through this policy it is hoped that children, youth and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse, care givers are protected from false accusations of abuse, and the Conference is protected from expensive legal fees.

How Does It Protect?

The Michigan Conference Protection Policy requires that all care givers working with children, youth and vulnerable adults at Conference and District events to be "Authorized". Authorized persons participated in a training event, have been screened and submitted 3 references, and a minimal of one State Police background check. Supervision is expected and necessary at the event, including care givers, and participants. Authorized care givers are mandated reporters in the State of Michigan when working at a Conference or District event.

How Do We Know if We Are Authorized?

Following the course, a test is given. Successfully passing (80%) the test is required. When all paperwork is submitted the Protection Policy Committee meets and goes over all materials including background checks. Two persons from the Protection Policy Committee sign off and date the authorization and authorize a care giver. An authorization card is then sent to the care giver. Authorization cards are valid for three years.

What Happens to An Authorization After Three Years?

To continue serving as leadership with children, youth and vulnerable adults at Conference and District events, you must re-take the Protection Policy Course and submit all new paperwork. Sometimes it takes time for the people that you ask to submit references to actually send them in. Please consider allowing at least 4-6 weeks for your authorization to be completed.

Who Teaches the Protection Courses?

Volunteers attend a special training event for trainers. They are trained on the procedures for teaching each course. The volunteer trainers serve in their Districts teaching Protection Courses.