

- 1 suspected child abuse or neglect or in cases where mandatory reporting is
 2 required by civil law.
 3
 4 5. After the person in charge of the ministry/activity has reported the
 5 suspected abuse to the proper authorities, the appointed clergy/supply
 6 pastors are to report the incident immediately to the District Superintendent.
 7 If the District Superintendent is unavailable, the incident should be reported
 8 to the Bishop's office.
 9
 10 6. The person in charge of the ministry/event must keep a written report of the
 11 steps taken by the Church in response to the reported abuse. The report
 12 should be kept brief and contain only factual information relevant to the
 13 situation. This report should be kept in a secure place. It should be written
 14 or typed to prevent it from being changed.
 15

16 **RESPONSE PLAN**

17 A quick, compassionate and unified response to an alleged incident of abuse is
 18 expected. All allegations will be taken seriously. In all cases of reported or observed
 19 abuse there shall be cooperation with all official investigating agencies.
 20

- 21
 22 1. All media requests for statements should be directed to the Annual
 23 Conference Director of Communications.
 24
 25 2. Immediately, and with dignity and respect for the sacred worth of the
 26 accused, remove the accused from further involvement with children, youth
 27 or vulnerable adults and advise the accused there has been an allegation of
 28 abuse. Details of the allegations of the abuse should not be discussed with
 29 the accused at the time of the removal. In any removal of a staff member or
 30 volunteer from any activity/ministry, care should be taken to handle the
 31 removal in a discreet manner, recognizing that there will be an investigation
 32 by either state or church authorities, or both.
 33
 34 3. When it has been alleged that a member of the church staff or volunteer, has
 35 committed an act of abuse or exploitation, the staff member or volunteer
 36 shall be required to refrain from all ministry/activities with children, youth
 37 and vulnerable adults until the incident has been fully resolved by the
 38 appropriate state authorities and/or in accordance with The Book of
 39 Discipline.
 40
 41 4. Notify the parents/guardians of the victim and take whatever steps are
 42 necessary to assure the safety and well being of the child, youth or
 43 vulnerable adult until the parent(s)/guardians arrive. **NOTE:** If one or both
 44 of the parents is the alleged abuser, follow the advice of the authorities
 45 concerning notification of others.
 46
 47 5. Take all allegations seriously and reach out to the victim and the victim's
 48 family. Show care and support to help prevent further hurt. Extend
 49 whatever pastoral resources are needed. Remember that the care and safety

- 1 of the victim is the **first** priority. Respond in a positive and supportive
 2 manner to the victim and the victim's family.
 3
 4 6. The church should provide a supportive atmosphere to all those who are
 5 affected, offering both objectivity and empathy as it seeks to create a
 6 climate in which healing and take place.
 7
 8

9 This policy was created using materials from The Safe Sanctuaries Program,
 10 Reducing the Risk Program, 2004 Book of Discipline, and Kentucky Annual
 11 Conference of the United Methodist Church.
 12
 13

14 **Motion to adopt a change in the Certified Lay Minister program Policy**
 15 **in NCNY Annual Conference**
 16

17 Background: the status of Certified Lay Minister was created by legislation adopted at
 18 the 2004 General Conference, spelled out in paragraph 272 of the 2004 UM Discipline
 19 and paragraph 271 in the 2008 UM Discipline. One of the stipulations in the enabling
 20 motion for the CLM program in our NCNY annual conference was the requirement that
 21 all CLMs have the same Psychological Assessment that is required of clergy candidates
 22 for licensing and/or ordination. This went beyond the requirements of the UM
 23 Discipline. It has come to light that not a single other annual conference is the United
 24 States is requiring the psych assessment for CLMs. BOOM had been funding a portion
 25 of the cost associated with this requirement, but due to the effect of the struggling
 26 economy on our fund balance interest moved to end that assistance early this year. Our
 27 own experience has shown that the psychological assessment is not a necessary element
 28 for the credentialing of CLMs who are required to be under the direct supervision of an
 29 Equipping Pastor. This requirement has been an unduly restrictive financial burden
 30 keeping some people from completing their certification.
 31

32 **Therefore we bring the following**

33
 34 **Motion:** that NCNY Annual Conference no longer require the psychological
 35 assessment for individuals being credentialed by our Districts as Certified Lay
 36 Ministers.
 37

38 Submitted by the NCNY Board of Ordained Ministry
 39
 40
 41
 42
 43
 44
 45

Special Needs Campership

Fund supporters help campers experience dynamic programs

Thanks so much to all of our financial supporters who continue to send gifts so that CCRM can offer camperships to children whose families are not able to pay the full fee for summer camp.

This year, two campers who have attended camp through CCRM's Urban Initiative, a program that began nine years ago, will be entering one of our leadership development programs.

Another 130 or so campers will receive financial aid so they can take part in one of the dynamic programs offered at Aldersgate and Casowasco. This would not be possible without your help. Thank you for your generosity and your continued support. We appreciate you.

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 EMMAUS COMMONS at casowasco
 ON SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2009 3:00 PM

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I'd like to sponsor a child for one week of camp (\$395)
 Please use my gift to fund CCRM's Urban Outreach

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Thank You!