

### **Cabinet Policy for Child/Youth Protection**

In Matthew 18:6, after encouraging His followers to be trusting and unpretentious like a child, Jesus said, “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.” Followers of Jesus and the churches where they worship Him have a responsibility to protect children, youth, and other vulnerable people. Accordingly, the Cabinet sets the following policy for the churches of the Florida Conference regarding the protection of children, youth, and other vulnerable members of congregations.

1. All churches must use MinistrySafe as their provider for child/youth protection policies, training, and background checks. The Global Methodist Church has partnered with MinistrySafe, and its use is available for free to all local churches. Each church must register an account with MinistrySafe on behalf of the church.
2. Each local church will develop its own child/youth protection policy using the templates provided by MinistrySafe. The local church’s policy should ensure all volunteers in their children’s and youth ministries are fully trained in carrying out the policy. MinistrySafe offers on-demand, streaming videos for training.
3. A component of all local churches’ child/youth protection policies must include required background checks for all volunteers in their children’s and youth ministries. Background checks must be run through MinistrySafe and logged on the church’s dashboard. This ensures the appropriate level of background check is performed.
4. The local church must name the Florida Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church as an additional insured on its insurance policies and provide proof through an annual certificate of insurance. These certificates shall be submitted with annual charge conference paperwork.
5. The child/youth protection policy of the local church must be followed by all outside ministries that rent space from the local church to conduct children/youth events. It must also be followed at off-site locations such as camps, retreats, etc. It is strongly recommended that all outside ministries have insurance and provide a certificate of insurance to local church naming the local church as an additional insured.

Unanimously adopted on June 13, 2024