

Reporting Abuse
1-866-607-SAFE (7233)

Sometimes the unexpected happens and we search for answers as to how we could have kept our children or the vulnerable of our community safer... In response to this question, the Book of Order now requires all church councils to implement child and youth protection policies to keep church events and communities safe for everyone.

Book of Order – G-3.0106 General Principals of Councils Administration of Mission

“All councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and a child protection policy.”

In mid-August, the Safe and Sacred Task Force, appointed by the 223rd General Assembly (2016) and tasked with helping congregations implement child/youth and vulnerable adult protection policies, first met together. Folks with a wide range of backgrounds in creating policies for prevention of abuse, reporting, responding to allegations of abuse and helping communities move towards healing from abuse gathered to discern how best to help congregations implement child/youth and vulnerable adult protection policies.

There are a few resources already available to congregations through a partnership with the [Insurance Board and Praesidium, Inc.](#)

In addition, the Presbyterian Mission Agency has a webpage specific to reducing the risk of sexual misconduct including resources for Creating a Safe Ministry at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/creating-safe-ministries/>.

What sort of resources would be most helpful to your congregation to help make your congregation a safe space for every child, youth and adult to participate in worship and mission?

Send your ideas or requests to the Safe and Sacred Space Task Force, Office of the General Assembly at SafeandSacredSpace@gmail.com.

