

CHARLOTTE DISTRICT



Western North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

4108 Park Road, Suite 101
Charlotte, NC 28209-2259

MEMORANDUM

To: Pastors, Church Trustee Chairs, Children's Ministries Coordinator,
Youth Ministries Coordinator

From: George E. Thompson, Charlotte District Superintendent

Re: Safe Sanctuary Addendum (Jessica Lundsford Act)

Date: June 5, 2009

We have developed for the Charlotte District a sample addendum for use with your local church Safe Sanctuary policy. I strongly recommend that you have your Church Council/Administrative Board approve this addendum that is related to the new *Jessica Lundsford Act* (see page 7, April edition of E-Connections district newsletter).

All churches are also encouraged to have staff and volunteers who work with children, youth and vulnerable adults attend a conference-sponsored workshop with Joy Melton, author of the UMC Safe Sanctuary materials, on Wednesday September 2nd at Covenant Community Church in Asheville, or Thursday, September 3rd at Maple Springs UMC in Winston-Salem. Contact Katie Warren (Asheville training) at katiewarren@ashevilledistrict.org (828-254-8564) or Kate May (Winston-Salem training) at kate@maplesprings.org (336-722-7563).

**Addendum to the Safe Sanctuary Policy for Children and Youth in Response to the
Jessica Lundsford Act for North Carolina, Effective 12/01/08
For _____ United Methodist Church
_____, NC**

1. We, as the church, invite all people to be a part of the worshipping community of faith. However, we must weigh the duty to protect the children and youth of the church with the right of all people to experience God's redeeming love through worship. In furtherance of our Safe Sanctuary policy and in compliance with North Carolina law, a registered sex offender who wishes to be part of a church community should expect to have conditions placed on his/her participation.
2. No adult who has been convicted of child abuse (including sexual abuse, physical abuse or emotional abuse) shall be permitted to work/volunteer with minors in any church sponsored activity. N.C. Gen Stat. § 14-208. 17(a) (2008)
3. A registered sex offender shall not be in attendance at any church event where children or youth are the primary audience. These events include, but are not limited to, United Methodist Youth Fellowship activities, Vacation Bible School, and scouting activities.
 - If a registered sex offender does attend such an event, he/she will be told to leave and a report will be made to the sheriff's office.
4. A registered sex offender shall not be within 300 feet of any location on the church property intended primarily for the use, care or supervision of minors.
N.C. Gen Stat. § 14-208.18(a) (2) (2008)
5. A registered sex offender shall not be in any area of the property intended primarily for the use, care or supervision of minors, including but not limited to, the nursery, preschool classrooms, children's Sunday School classrooms and playground. N.C. Gen Stat. § 14-208.18(a) (1) (2008)
6. While on church property, a registered sex offender must be accompanied by an unrelated, same gender adult covenant partner provided by the church.
7. A registered sex offender should identify himself/herself as a registered sex offender to the pastor or the Director of Christian Education. A registered sex offender who wishes to be part of our church community shall read and sign a Church Participation Covenant Statement. This document will also be signed by the pastor(s) and the Chairperson of the Church Council and be kept on file at the church.

Registered Sex Offender Church Participation Covenant Statement

The congregation of _____ United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children and youth. In furtherance of our Safe Sanctuary policy and in compliance with N. C. Gen. Stat. §§ 14-208.17, 14-208.18, all registered sex offenders who wish to be part of our worshipping community must abide by the following procedures:

1. As a registered sex offender, I will have and abide by conditions placed on my participation in the church community.
2. While on church property, I will be accompanied by an unrelated, same-gender adult covenant partner. Providing a covenant partner will be the responsibility of the church.
3. I will not be permitted to work/volunteer with children or youth in any church-sponsored activity. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-208.17 (2008)
4. I will not be in attendance at any event where children or youth are the primary audience. This includes, but is not limited to, United Methodist Youth Fellowship activities, Vacation Bible School and scouting activities. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-208.18 (a) (3) (2008) If I attend such an event, I will be told to leave and a report will be made to the sheriff's office.
5. I will not be within 300 feet of any location intended primarily for the use, care or supervision of minors. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-208.18(a) (2) (2008)
6. I will not be in any area of the property designated for the use, care or supervision of children or youth. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-208.18 (a)(1) (2008). These areas include, but are not limited to, the nursery, preschool classrooms, children's Sunday School classrooms and playground.

Dated: _____

Pastor: _____

Church Council Chairperson: _____

Signature: _____

Printed _____