

Trigger Warning

While this information may be informative to some, it can be extremely sensitive to others.

Please know that there are resources out there and that many of our congregational members (including those of the DEI task force) are here for you.



SAFE GATHERINGS

Most child abuse victims—about 90 percent—know their perpetrators: they may be parents or relatives, a coach, friend, teacher, babysitter, or another person in authority.

Does your church or conference want to do more to protect its children, youth, and vulnerable adults?



Let the Safe Gatherings system help through:

- Online application for personal and background information
- Secure online payment processing
- Online abuse prevention and boundary awareness training course (approx. 90-120 minutes in length)
- Integrated background checks provided by trusted, national background check providers
- Electronic professional references

Safe Gatherings can also customize the application, training, background checks, and review process to meet your specific needs.



HISTORY

Safe Gatherings began in 2012 as a project to assist the Kansas East UMC Conference (now part of the Great Plains UMC Conference) in taking advantage of technology to automate their paper-intensive protection program.

Fueled by a passion for protecting vulnerable populations, we created an online tool to streamline the process and make it easier for the Conference and the churches they serve—and in doing so launched Safe Gatherings.

After a year of enhancing the system, Safe Gatherings expanded to other United Methodist churches and conferences, and then to other denominations. In 2015, Safe Gatherings started working with other organizations that serve children, youth, and vulnerable adults, such as schools and community organizations. The

focus has always been abuse prevention through a system of checks and balances.

Safe Gatherings now serves more than 10,000 churches and organizations across 42 states, including multiple denominations.

Using Technology for Good

Parents want to know their children are safe **wherever** they are: at **church**, at a **community activity**, or at **school**. Part of that sense of security means knowing that the volunteers and staff working with children have been properly vetted.



The Safe Gatherings system is comprehensive – integrating abuse prevention and boundary awareness training with background checks and reference checks for all of your staff and volunteers working directly with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

When your employees and volunteers are trained to identify potential abusers, recognize the signs of abuse, and know how to handle reporting, they are better equipped to work together to help prevent abuse.

Safe Gatherings uses technology for good: we make it easy for you and your organization to protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Learn more about [how it works](#).

It's simple, and it's all online.

Safe Gatherings serves [organizations](#) of all shapes and sizes: churches, faith-based organizations, schools, and community organizations. [Contact us](#) to learn how Safe Gatherings can help you.

HOTLINE NUMBERS:

National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

Stop it Now! 1-888-PREVENT

United States Elder Abuse Hotline 1-866-363-4276

National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-4-A-CHILD (422-4453)

Child Abuse Hotline / Dept of Social Services 1-800-342-3720

Child Abuse National Hotline 1-800-25ABUSE

Children in immediate danger 1-800-THE-LOST

Exploitation of Children 1-800-843-5678

Missing Children Help Center 1-800-872-5437

Suicide Hotline 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-827-7571

Deaf Hotline 1-800-799-4TTY

Holy Spirit Teenline (717) 763-2345 or 1-800-722-5385

Crisis Intervention (Harrisburg) (717) 232-7511 or

1- 888- 596-4447

Carlisle Helpline (717) 249-6226

Crisis Intervention (York) (717) 851-5320 or 1-800-673-2496

United Way Crisis Helpline 1-800-233-HELP

Christian Oriented Hotline 1-877-949-HELP

Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213