

Local Church Safe Ministries Team

Purpose: To cultivate the church as a safe place for all people.

Goals:

- Ensure safe church policies are in place and practiced.
- Support safe church initiatives in the local congregation.
- Represent the local church in the classis regarding matters of safe church.

Responsibilities:

1. Update Safe Church policies on a regular basis. (*Recommend an annual review*)
2. Support the implementation of the church's safe church policy.
3. Screen and arrange training for church volunteers who work with children, youth & vulnerable people.
4. Immediately respond to allegations of abuse, contacting the Abuse Prevention and Response Coordinator (APRC) of the classis BCSE when there are concerns (early and often).
5. Liaise between and communicate with church members and Council, as well as classis and the APRC on matters relating to safe church.
6. Implement and participate in the educational and training opportunities provided by the APRC and classis Safe Church Team.
7. Acquire knowledge of the BC ACT pertaining to child abuse reporting.

Authority:

The local church Safe Ministries Team reports to the local Church Council and is supported by the Classis Safe Church Team. They have the authority to:

- Work with and support the leaders & ministries of their church through the implementation of policies & procedures as well as situations & questions as they arise.
- Request support from the APRC regarding specific issues or needs arising in the local congregation.
- Maintain strict confidentiality.

Accountability:

1. A member of the Safe Ministries Team will be a member of the broader classis Safe Church Team.
2. The Safe Ministries Team will report to its local Council on a regular basis, (i.e. twice yearly). *it is recommended one member of this team is a council member
3. The APRC will be a resource for education and support through any situations that may arise.

Team Member Criteria

- Have a heart for making the church a safe place.
- Be supported by their local congregation and council.
- Adhere to all safe church policies.