

MAKING THE CHURCH A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN

This following interview guide was developed as part of an alternative to traditional child abuse prevention seminar materials mandated for Sunday school teachers and youth workers. Rather than focus on "what not to do" this interview guide seeks stories of participant's experiences of being treated with dignity and being safe as a child. This material is then incorporated into teaching participants how to increase the safety of children in church settings.

MAKING THE CHURCH A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN Interview Guide for Teachers and Youth Workers

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Book of Common Prayer Baptismal Covenant

Instructions: In pairs interview take time to interview one another using the following questions.

Be a generous listener. Do not dialogue, rather take turns to actually conduct an interview. If you need more information or clarification ask additional follow-up questions. Use this sheet to record the results of your interview. When your interviews are completed you will present the results to the wider group.

Before you conduct the interview take a minute to read the questions and decide how you will personally answer the question and make a mental note of your response. Now proceed with the interviews, paying full attention to the interviewee rather than to your story.

1. Dignity: Reflect on your entire experience with your congregation or school. Recall a time when you experienced someone respecting your dignity or valuing you as a human being. Describe how it made you feel, what you thought, and who was involved. Describe what you did as a result of your experience.

2. Safety as a Child: Reflect on your life and especially your childhood. Recall a time when you felt nurtured, safe, secure, protected and free to be yourself. Tell me about this memorable time. Describe the event in detail. What made you feel safe?

3. Safety in Ministry: Reflect on your work and ministry with children. Recall one of your best times working with a child or group of children, a time when you felt accomplished, creative and effective in your work. Tell me about this memorable time. Describe the event in detail. What made you feel safe to work creatively with them?

4. Values: Without being humble tell me what you most value about yourself when you are working with children and youth.

5. Three Wishes: If you had three wishes for your work with children, what would they be?