

Safe Church Summary

With the church of all ages we proclaim that people are created in the image of God. Abuse most deeply constitutes a violation of the image of God in another person, and it is therefore profoundly sinful.

Covenant church will combat abuse by implementing measures to prevent abuse from occurring within the context of its ministries and in its facilities.

Abuse includes:

Physical abuse: any non-accidental injury inflicted on another person.

Neglect: a chronic failure to meet the basic needs of someone dependent on another for care.

Sexual abuse: any sexual experience forced on one person by another which may or may not involve physical contact between people.

Emotional abuse: any attempt to control another person's life through threatening, belittling, humiliating, and ridiculing another in such a way that it impairs a person's God-given sense of self-worth.

Harassment: any conduct or interaction with another that makes a person feel attacked, demeaned, intimidated or manipulated, particularly by someone stronger than they or relating to them from a position of authority or power leaving them helpless to resist.

Inappropriate touching: includes behavior such as kissing a child (or vulnerable adult), coaxing a child (or vulnerable adult) to kiss you, extended hugging or tickling, touching a child (or vulnerable adult) in any area that would be covered by a bathing suit, carrying older children or having them sit on your lap.

Improper discipline: includes yelling or screaming at children (or vulnerable adults), threatening them or physically hurting them.

Spiritual abuse: is the exploitation, coercion, or control of another person by a leader with spiritual authority which results in the weakening, undermining, or diminishment of the person's emotional or spiritual well-being.

For further information on our Safe Church policy please look on-line at www.covenant-church.ca. or email Karen at karenv@covenant-church.ca