



St. Sanctuary Church
**Disclosure of Presence of
Convicted Sex Offender**

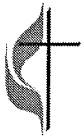
Secrecy about situations within the church encourages abuse; transparency makes everyone safer. Therefore immediately after the pastor learns of the presence of a possible convicted sex offender in the congregation, the pastor will gather pertinent public records from the government agencies who arrested and prosecuted the individual.

First Phase: If the individual indeed is a convicted sex offender, the pastor will with professional consultation create a covenant of behavior similar to the sample document (See Appendix 7a). Then the pastor will inform members of the church's program staff that the person is a convicted sex offender; whether he/she has satisfied the court's requirements related to his/her conviction; and that a covenant of behavior has been established and is being fulfilled by the individual. The pastor and the program staff will then initiate a process to educate and inform the Trustees, the Church Council, the parents of minor children, and volunteers who work with St. Sanctuary's children and youth about St. Sanctuary's Safe Congregation's policies and procedures and about the basic facts related to (the person's name) status as a convicted sex offender.

Second Phase: Church leadership will review St. Sanctuary's Safe Church vision, policy and procedures. The _____ (governing body) will also be informed that individual is a convicted sex offender; that he has satisfied the court's requirements related to his conviction; that this covenant has been developed; and that plans are underway to educate and inform the parents of minor children and church school and youth volunteers about these matters.

Third Phase: The pastor, judicatory representative, an external consultant, and one or more members of the St. Sanctuary's Safe Sanctuary Task Force will lead trainings and informational meetings for parents of minor children and church school volunteers. These trainings and informational meetings will cover the following topics: St. Sanctuary's Safe Church policies and procedures, the basic facts related to the presence of a convicted sex offender in the congregation, and the several ways for parents and other members of the congregation to fulfill our vision of being a safe and an inclusive faith community. Open forums with the entire congregation may be warranted.

At the conclusion of this three-phase process, this covenant between (the offender) and St. Sanctuary Church will be reviewed, and it may be amended.



St. Sanctuary Church

street address, city, California zip • Tel: (xxx) xxx-xxxx • e-mail

Sample Safe Sanctuary Policy/Covenant

between the Offender and the Congregation

St. Sanctuary Church is open to all people who affirm faith in accordance with the United Methodist Denomination and who meet or exceed the minimum requirements of membership as stated in St. Sanctuary's Bylaws. We are also committed to providing members and friends with a true sanctuary for worship, education, fellowship and service.

Given our beliefs about membership and safe sanctuary, and given that you, _____ (the person's name), were convicted by the State of _____ of a sex offense involving a minor in _____ (year), it is in the best interest of St. Sanctuary's members and friends, including you, that very clear boundaries be defined and maintained with regard to your participation in the life of the church, and that information about your status as a convicted sex offender will be shared with some members of the church staff, Cabinet, parents of minor children, volunteers who work with St. Sanctuary's children and youth programs and possibly the entire congregation. This information will be shared in a three-phase process as described in the church's Safe Church Policy.

You are welcome to attend coffee hour, congregational meetings and board and committee meetings (in accordance with the church bylaws), and all-church fellowship events. You are also welcome to request and receive pastoral care from St. Sanctuary's clergy, including receiving assistance with referrals to professional counselors, with the following stipulations:

- ◆ You will remain in the presence of a designated parish companion while attending church events, meeting with the designated parish companion at the parking lot and staying with him/her during time on the grounds of St. Sanctuary. All members of St. Sanctuary's (children and youth) staff and volunteers, and parents of minor children will be informed that you are a convicted sex offender. These companions will be designated by the Ministers, include the following persons: _____

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- ◆ You are responsible for scheduling his companions.
 - ◆ You will not talk with minor children and/or youth.

