



Dear Volunteer:

Thank you so much for putting your faith into action by applying for Safe Sanctuaries certification and offering your time, skills, and gifts in being living proof of God's love with children, youth and other vulnerable people.

We as a church have a responsibility to do all we can to assure parents that Christ Church is a safe place for their children. In addition, we also have a responsibility to teach each adult volunteer how to create and maintain that safe environment.

To accomplish this monumental goal, it is vital that each adult volunteer understand themselves as a link in the chain of protection. With each link adequately prepared, the chain remains strong. However, if even one link is unready, unwilling, or defiant, then the entire chain is weak.

Summary

As a volunteer allowed to work with our children or youth, you are expected to fully read all the materials in this packet, including the entire Safe Sanctuaries Policy. You must also:

- Complete a **Volunteer Application Form**
- Sign a **Volunteer Participation Covenant Statement**
 - ✓ Two references will be checked
- Complete and sign a **Background Check Authorization Form**
- Attend a Safe Sanctuaries Training Event

To maintain your Safe Sanctuaries certification, these forms must be completed every three years. All information will be held in the strictest confidence, and referred to only by trained staff.

Thank you for understanding and helping us provide the safest environment possible for our children, youth, and volunteers. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your ministry leader, or me in the church office.

Serving Christ Together,

Rev. Brandon Dirks
Minister for Faith Formation



Safe Sanctuaries Volunteer Participation Covenant Statement

The following statements reflect our commitment to preserving Christ Church as a holy place of safety and protection for all who would enter and as a place in which all people can experience the love of God through relationships with others.

1. No adult who has been convicted of, entered a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere/no contest to, or been the subject of deferred prosecution of a crime (felony or misdemeanor) involving children under the age of 18 or child pornography or child abuse or neglect (either sexual abuse, physical abuse or emotional abuse) should volunteer or otherwise be allowed to work with children or youth in any Church-sponsored activity.
2. Adult survivors of child abuse need the love and support of our congregation. Any adult survivor who desires to volunteer in some capacity to work with children or youth is encouraged to discuss his/her willingness with one of our Church's ministers before accepting an assignment.
3. All volunteer adults who have supervisory roles with children, youth, or vulnerable adults in our Church must have been active members of the congregation or a direct or indirect participant in a Church-sponsored ministry or program for at least six months before beginning a volunteer assignment.
4. Adult volunteers with children, youth, and vulnerable adults shall attend regular training and educational events provided by the Church to keep volunteers informed of Church policies and state laws regarding child abuse.
5. Adult volunteers shall immediately report to Child Protection Services and their staff supervisor any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate, unless the concern involves one of such individuals, in which case known or suspected abuse must be reported to another non-involved Church official.

I have read this **Participation Covenant** and the **Church's Safety and Abuse Prevention Policy and Operational Procedures**, and I agree to observe and abide by such expectations.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print Full Name

Safe Sanctuaries Volunteer Application

I am applying to be authorized as: Safe Sanctuary Volunteer Activity Driver

I am primarily interested in serving in the following ministry area:

Children Youth Music (children and/or youth) Special Needs Other_____

Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Employer:

Current job responsibilities and schedule:

Previous work experience:

Describe how you have been active at Christ Church over the last 6 months:

What about your faith experience leads you to want to serve in this way?

Previous volunteer experience (either at church or in the community):

What qualities do you have that would help you work with children and/or youth?

Special interests, hobbies, skills:

When are you most available to volunteer? Days Evenings Weekends

Do you have limitations we should know about?

Are you willing to attend annual volunteer training sessions? Yes No

Have you read and agreed to the Volunteer Participation Covenant and the Church's Children and Youth Safety and Abuse Prevention Policy and Operating Procedures? No Yes

List all other churches or religious organizations you have attended or been involved with during the past five years:

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Please list two references; do not include relatives or Christ Church staff members.

REFERENCE #1

Name:	Phone(s):
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	How do you know this person?

REFERENCE #2

Name:	Phone(s):
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	How do you know this person?

Printed Name of Volunteer Applicant

Signature of Volunteer Applicant

Date



Please return this form to Rev. Brandon Dirks, Minister for Faith Formation
Christ Church United Methodist, 4614 Brownsboro Road, Louisville KY 40207

Safe Sanctuaries Authorization and Request for Criminal Records Check

CHOOSE ONE: **1st time application** **Application renewal**

I am applying to be authorized as: Safe Sanctuary Volunteer Activity Driver

I am primarily interested in serving in the following ministry area:

Children Youth Music (children and/or youth) Special Needs Other _____

Have you ever been convicted of, entered a guilty plea to, entered an *Alford* plea to, or entered a plea of *nolo contendere*/no contest to, been subject of deferred prosecution or criminal diversion, or been charged with or accused of any crime (felony or misdemeanor) involving children under the age of 18, child pornography, child abuse, child neglect (either sexual abuse, physical abuse or emotional abuse), or other crime or act of neglect involving a child under the age of 18 convicted or, or pled guilty to a crime, either a misdemeanor or a felony (including but not limited to drug-related charges, child abuse, child pornography, other crimes of violence, theft, or motor vehicle violations)?

No _____ Yes _____ If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever been convicted for, entered a guilty plea or a plea of *nolo contendere* to, or been the subject of deferred prosecution or prayer for judgement continued for, a crime (felony or misdemeanor), including but not limited to drug-related charges, crimes of violence, or theft (excluding minor traffic violations)? No _____ Yes _____ If yes, please explain: _____

I, _____ hereby authorize Christ Church United Methodist to request information regarding any record of convictions contained in files, or in any criminal file maintained on me, whether said file is a local, state, or national file, and including but not limited to convictions for crimes committed against minors, to the fullest extent permitted by state and federal law. I do release Christ Church from all liability that may result from any such disclosure made in response to this request.

_____ Signature of Volunteer Applicant

_____ Date

Your full name (first, middle, last):		
Address:		Zip:
All other names that you have used (if any):		
Date of birth:	Place of birth:	
Social Security Number:	Email:	
Driver's License Number:	State issuing license:	Expiration date:



Christ Church values its volunteers highly. This information, as well as any reports resulting from this application, will be held and stored in strictest confidence. A copy of this report is available to you upon request.

Please mail this form to Rev. Brandon Dirks, Minister for Faith Formation;
Christ Church United Methodist, 4614 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207

OR seal this form in an envelope (addressed to Rev. Brandon Dirks) and turn it in to the church receptionist.

Please do not leave your envelope at the guest services desk