

Goshen UMC – Gaithersburg, MD

3. Procedures for Supervision of Registered Sex Offenders
 - a. Addendum to Safe Sanctuary Policies (*Attachment C*)
 - b. Covenant Letter for Registered Sex Offenders (*Attachment D*)
 - c. Procedures for Review and Certification of Policy and Procedures
 - i. Periodic Review of Policy and Procedures
 - a. As recommended by the BWC, the Safe Sanctuary Policy and Procedures will be reviewed, at a minimum, every two years to ensure they are in compliance with any new laws, expectations of the UM Church and the BWC.
 - b. The original Goshen UMC Safe Sanctuary Policy was adopted on July 29, 2008.
 - a. Due to the implementation of the Safe Sanctuary Addendum and the two-year minimum revision expectation, the SPRC will revise the current policy and present the revisions to the Trustees and then the Administrative Board for approval.
 - b. Date Policy Modified/Approved by SPRC: November 27, 2012
 - c. Date reviewed and approved by the Administrative Board: December 18, 2012
 - d. Effective Date of Implementation of the Revised Policy: January 1, 2013
 - ii. Certification Process of Development and Use of Policy at the Charge Conference

The Pastor and SPRC will certify each year at Charge Conference that Goshen United Methodist Church is in compliance with the BWC Safe Sanctuary Policies and Procedures for local churches.

Attachment D

Covenant Letter for Registered Sex Offender

Dear _____:

It has come to our attention that you are listed on the Sex Offender Registry for **[Maryland] [the District of Columbia] [West Virginia]**. As a church family, we affirm every person's need to be part of a faith community such as ours, but we hold in balance the imperative to all we can to keep all our parishioners safe in body and spirit.

Under these circumstances, your participation in the life of the **[insert name]** United Methodist Church, or your presence on church premises, requires that a written and binding covenant be made – between you and the church – to adhere to the guidelines outlined below. By making this covenant and remaining faithful to it, without exception, we are hopeful that the pastor, the staff, and the congregation can be of assistance to you, and that the church will, in turn, benefit from your presence and participation in the church’s ministry. Each of us is in need of the mercy and grace God offers.

The terms of the covenant are as follows:

1. Any time you are on the campus of the church, you must be accompanied by a “Designated Attendant.” There will be at least two people who will be available to act as a Designated Attendant for you. The names and telephone numbers of those who have agreed to act as a Designated Attendant are listed at the bottom of this letter. You should make contact with one of them prior to coming to the campus on each occasion. One of these Designated Attendants must be present to meet you **[at your car in the church parking lot] [insert other safe, well-lighted location well outside any church building]** and be in your company at all times while you are on the campus of the church. This includes accompanying you to the restroom. The Designated Attendant will accompany you to your car at the time you leave the campus.
2. You cannot serve in any positions of leadership or teaching until further notice.
3. You agree to allow the pastor or his designee to contact any law enforcement, probation officer or other governmental official – but not your attorney or any health care provider – in order to request or obtain information that the pastor believes may be of assistance in ministering to you or to the congregation or others in the church community. By signing this letter you agree that the law enforcement, probation officer or other governmental official may share any information with the pastor or his designee, and you release that person and their organization or employer from any liability as a result of releasing this information. This authorization and release specifically includes, without limitation, any information, written or verbal, the law enforcement, probation officer or other governmental official has obtained concerning medical, psychological and psychiatric conditions or treatment.
4. You agree to meet and consult with the pastor upon his request for the purpose of providing assistance to you or for the protection and security of the congregation or others in the church community.
5. You understand and agree that the pastor and SPRC must keep other church staff and members apprised of your status and the guidelines agreed upon.

We trust you understand the reasons for these requirements. If so, and if you are committed to keeping this covenant, please sign and date this letter in the space provided below. If you cannot or are unwilling to do so, we regret that we cannot allow you to visit church premises again for any reason.

Please know that we are praying for you and for ourselves as we locate and follow an appropriate path for moving forward in faith. We look forward to what God will do in your life and in the lives of all members of this congregation and those who seek to participate in its ministries.

Sincerely,

Pastor Chair, Staff Parish Relations
Committee

The Designated Attendants to be called any time you plan to come to the campus of the church are:

1. _____ Tel no. _____

2. _____ Tel no. _____

3. _____ Tel no. _____

I have read the above letter and agree to abide by the mandatory guidelines contained in the letter.

Witness: _____

Name Date: