

Franklinton United Brethren Church

SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY

UBIC Discipline 2017-2019 ¶127 The Local Congregation and Human Sexuality

1. All persons, irrespective of physicality, gender, or sexual orientation, are made in the image and likeness of God.

Therefore, a congregation should focus on:

- a. Honoring all persons as created human beings who are deeply loved by God.
- b. Extending hospitality to all persons who are drawn to its public gatherings.

2. All persons have been wounded in their sexuality and are in need of the full redemption of Christ. God desires that human beings live in loving, committed, life-giving, healing relationships in all aspects of life.

Therefore, a congregation should focus on:

- a. The redemption and wholeness of all persons.
- b. The healing of relationships.

3. All persons can be tempted to use other people for their own sexual desires, contrary to the loving will of God.

Therefore, out of honor for God and each other, a congregation should focus on:

- a. Encouraging the creation and maintenance of healthy, biblical sexual boundaries.
- b. Recognizing that celibacy can be a more radical, sacrificial expression of love than sexual intimacy.

4. All persons need opportunity for safety and authenticity. As redeemed persons, we are called to humbly address sin and seek reconciliation and redemption when it occurs, whether in our lives or in the lives of others. Therefore, a congregation should focus on:

- a. Protecting each other from harm, particularly when we are in each other's care.
- b. Healing those who have been abused.
- c. Redeeming perpetrators of abuse.

You May Have Experienced Sexual Misconduct If: *

- An incident with a ministry leader makes you feel uncomfortable or confused
- You receive inappropriate personal gifts from a ministry leader.
- Your counseling session with a ministry leader focuses on his or her needs and issues, especially details of intimate relationships.
- A ministry leader invites you out alone for intimate, social occasions
- A ministry leader touches you in a confusing, uncomfortable, or upsetting way.
- A ministry leader sends you emails, instant, and/or text messages with sexual overtures
- A ministry leader uses theological rationale for questionable conduct.

If You Believe You Have Experienced Sexual Misconduct:*

- Pay attention to, and trust your feelings during and after the situation
- Be direct and tell him/her to STOP the behavior
- Be safe and leave the situation
- Remember, you are not to blame
- Document incidents by keeping and saving a record of dates, times, places, and witnesses of incidents
- Save emails, letters, cards, voicemail messages, text messages, receipts, or notes.
- Share your feelings of hurt, betrayal, confusion, anxiety, or fear with someone you trust
- Remember you are not the only person to whom this has happened.

* Based on the UMC Sexual Ethics Flyer <www.umsexualethics.org>

Reporting Sexual Misconduct or Other Incidents of Abuse:

- You must report any allegations of misconduct or abuse to the pastor or a member of the Personnel Commission of Franklinton United Brethren Church.
- Please understand that the pastor is a *mandated reporter* of any allegations of misconduct involving a minor.