

	<p>St. John's UCC, Laurys Station, PA</p>	<p>Issued: August 5, 2009 Supersedes: NEW Page 1 of 1</p>
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Safe Church Policy

Policy Prohibiting Abuse, Exploitation, and Harassment

As a community of Christian faith, St. John's UCC Laurys Station is committed to creating and maintaining programs, facilities, and a community in which members, friends, staff, and volunteers can worship, learn, and work together in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. All persons associated with St. John's UCC Laurys Station should be aware that the church is strongly opposed to Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Harassment and that such behavior is prohibited by church policy. It is the intention and responsibility of the church to take whatever action may be needed to prevent and correct behavior that is contrary to this policy and, if necessary, to discipline those persons who violate this policy.

Ministerial Conduct

The pastor, every employee, elected and appointed lay leaders, and every volunteer are all Ministers of the congregation. As such, each is responsible for understanding the ways in which his/her words or actions may affect others.

Sexual Exploitation or Sexual Harassment, of parishioners or others, by anyone engaged in the ministry of St. John's UCC Laurys Station is unethical and unprofessional behavior and will not be tolerated within this congregation.

All Ministers of the church may sometimes deal with individuals who are emotionally or personally vulnerable in some way. It is important that every Minister of the church be adequately prepared and educated for the ministry in which he/she serves others, and to understand the ways in which his/her actions may impact those who may be vulnerable to their use or misuse of power.

It is the policy of St. John's UCC Laurys Station to encourage its Ministers to nurture safety within Ministerial Relationships by being attentive to self-care, education, and the importance of referring those in need to supportive and helpful resources. It is also expected that those engaged in providing ministry will complete and submit a Volunteer Application and Volunteer Disclosure Form.