

Children and Youth Protection Policy

“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” –Mark 10:13-16

Policy Purpose

Bath Presbyterian Church is committed to providing a church environment that is a safe place for children and youth and that will protect them from any abuse when they are involved in church related activities. Bath adopts these policies and procedures not only to maximize safety and prevent child abuse from occurring within its church community, but also to guide and protect volunteers from unwarranted allegations of child abuse.

For purposes of this policy the term child/children/youth includes all persons under the age of eighteen (18) years.

We will not share information/data with any third party outside of our organization concerning child or parent/grandparent without permission. Any concern over data can be brought to the attention of the pastor or session.

Individuals working with children have no prior conviction for child abuse or sexual misconduct.

Two Adult Rule

Whenever possible, any adult who is present in a church sponsored activity for children or youth should be accompanied by another adult. Bath volunteers should not be alone with a single child where they cannot be observed by others.

Children should be supervised by at least two adult leaders, who are unrelated. The presence of two leaders is to protect children and youth against situations in which abuse might occur, and to protect leaders against false allegations of abuse or neglect. A volunteer must be a member of Bath Church, unless a parent is present with their own child.

Volunteers must keep children inside the building. Only parents/grandparents/guardians are allowed to take children outside.

Profanity, inappropriate jokes and media, and any kind of harassment in the presence of children or youth are prohibited.