

To: Minister Members and Churches in Yellowstone Presbytery

From: The Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet

October 12, 2018

In 2015 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA, approved amending section G-3.0106 in the Book of Order to read: ***All councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and a child and youth protection policy.***

News sources repeatedly carry accounts of sexual misconduct and child molestation. It is important that we in the church take steps to establish our congregations as safe places for all. The General Assembly has wisely called for the creation of these policies at all levels of the church.

Yellowstone Presbytery adopted a sexual misconduct policy several years ago, and it is available on our website: www.yellowstonepcusa.org. Now the Presbytery Leadership Cabinet has formed and adopted a child and youth protection policy to be approved by the Presbytery at the November meeting. Thanks to Curt Kochner (elder and chair of the Camping and Youth committee) for his leadership and to his committee which worked with him in forming this policy. The draft is attached for you to consider.

Now it is your turn. When the Book of Order indicated "All councils shall..." This means each session in every church shall craft, adopt and implement these two policies as appropriate to their church. To help you do this, we have attached the presbytery Children and Youth Protection policy to serve as a guide. We suggest you form a drafting committee for your session and set a target date for adoption sometime in 2019.

If we can be of further help, please contact us. Thanks for undertaking this effort for the sake of the vulnerable in our congregations.