MinistrySafe, the official abuse prevention system for all churches in Central Texas Conference is very important to all of us.  This newsletter will provide you with helpful information for your use.

**May Edition**  You are receiving this newsletter because you are listed as a SSA - Safety System Administrator of your church.  The purpose of the newsletter is to answer frequently asked questions, provide supplemental information and resources as they become available, and share best practices related to our Central Texas Conference policies and MinistrySafe procedures.Please share this information with your supervisors. *If you are no longer your church's MinistrySafe SSA, please be sure to change the information on your church's dashboard and contact Sheryl Crumrine (sheryl@ctcumc.org) to update our mailing list.   The newsletters will be archived on the CTC website (http://www.ctcumc.org/ministrysafe).  This site also contains a link through which you can submit a topic for consideration to the MinistrySafe Oversight Committee for inclusion in a future newsletter.*

We hope this resource will be helpful for you as we move forward into implementing MinistrySafe and to continuing to grow in excellence in our care for children and youth in the years ahead.
The CTC MinistrySafe Oversight Committee

## MinistrySafe for Mission/Outreach Teams

While most local churches are well underway with MinistrySafe compliance in their Children/Youth ministries, many churches are also realizing that MinistrySafe is an important tool for their Missions/Outreach ministries as well.

Volunteers with Children/Youth ministries usually work on church property in church-run programs with church-member families. Volunteers with Missions/Outreach ministries often work away from church grounds in programs run by other organizations with individuals and families from the community.  So why is MinistrySafe training and screening important for those volunteers?

1. Because Mission/Outreach teams are often visiting places where children and youth are present e.g., working on and inside private homes, engaging people on neighborhood streets where children play, interacting and serving in community centers where families come for help.
2. Because Mission/Outreach teams represent their local church and The United Methodist Church when they put on their team t-shirts. They also represent the greater Christian Church which has earned a doubt and distrust with widespread abuse scandals. Ultimately, Outreach/Mission volunteers represent Jesus wherever they go—whether on church property or in the community.
3. Because Mission/Outreach teams need to be known as safe and trustworthy, trained and equipped when they are serving in their communities. The Church should be holding the highest standards among non-profit organizations and social aid agencies when it comes to child protection and child abuse prevention.
4. Because Mission/Outreach teams can be the safety net that some children and youth will never have at home or in the neighborhood. Although signs of abuse may be spotted at school, there can never be too many aware eyes keeping young people safe. Sensitivity to spot abuse and respond graciously to those who have suffered abuse is an important tool for Outreach/Missions teams.

Please urge your Mission/Outreach leaders to start MinistrySafe compliance with their volunteers today.

*United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) and Emergency Response Teams (ERT) require MinistrySafe compliance for certification which is renewed every 3 years.

*MinistrySafe training is renewed every 2 years; background checks and screening process should be reviewed every 2-5 years.

*Church Safety Committees should review the renewal timelines for your local church and which volunteers/teams need to become MinistrySafe compliant beyond Children/Youth ministries.

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