

What is Safe Gatherings?

Safe Gatherings is an online abuse prevention program that screens and trains volunteers, staff, and clergy to help prevent abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults in group settings. When employees and volunteers are trained to identify potential abusers, recognize the signs of abuse, and know how to handle reporting, they are better equipped to prevent abuse.

Upon successful completion of the Safe Gatherings application, background and reference checks, and online training program, each applicant will receive documentation of approval valid for three years and will have continued access to the online training program for one year.

The price per applicant for the program customized for Michigan UMC is \$45. Churches need to work directly with Safe Gatherings to set-up their account.

Safe Gatherings

safegatherings.com

Contact the Safe Gatherings Team at

contact@safegatherings.com

888-241-8258

Protection Policy Team & Michigan Conference Ministry with Children

Judy Herriff, PPT Chair -
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or 517.897.4483

Safe Gatherings and the Michigan Conference

For Local Churches





Important Things to Know:

- Local Churches are required to have their own protection policy. A template to guide churches is located on the Michigan Conference website.
- Additional information and resources for local churches are available at the Michigan Conference website.
- Everyone working with children, youth, or vulnerable adults should go through a training and application process. Local churches may do their own training and process or use Safe Gatherings.

How Does Safe Gatherings Work?

Everything is on the Safe Gatherings website: safegatherings.com

Step 1: Click on “Get Started” from the home page

Step 2: Complete the information on the front page. For people who are applying as a Local Church Volunteer the steps are:

- Choose language preference
- Select *Church or Faith-Based Organization*
- Select Denomination *Methodist*
- Select State: *Michigan*
- Begin typing any part of your church name, a dropdown list will appear and you can select the church where you are seeking approval to serve.
- Complete the rest of the form and click “next”. Continue with the application, history, references, disclosure, and release forms, and finally payment.
- Contact your church about payment details.
- Once the payment is received, the applicant will have access to the training.
- When the application is complete, applicants will be contacted with their approval or information about denial.

What About Authorization for District or Conference Events?

Individuals who need to be an authorized care provider for a district or conference event or ministry must go through the Safe Gatherings process. Please see the brochure for Conference/District Volunteers for specific instructions.

If an individual has been approved by Safe Gatherings as a local church volunteer, that approval is also valid as an authorized District/Conference care provider.

If you have questions about district/conference authorization, please call the Protection Policy Assistant, Aritha Davis at 517.347.4030.



Photo by [Alexis Brown](#) on [Unsplash](#)