

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth



Joy Thornburg Melton

At First UMC, all volunteers with children and youth undergo an orientation and training program to acquaint them with The United Methodist Church's guidelines and procedures for the safe-ty of all our children, and to prepare them for their roles as teachers, care-givers, supervisors and role models at First UMC.

As part of the orientation, volunteers receive a copy of our Safe Sanctuaries Handbook which contains the guidelines for volunteering and a full explanation of our Safe Sanctuaries policies. Volunteers must sign a statement of acknowledgement and agreement.

National criminal background checks are also conducted for all volunteers who have direct

contact with children and youth in our church
activities on and off campus.