



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

1210 Locust Street | St. Louis, MO 63103 | 314-231-1220 | diocesemo.org

Office of the Bishop

February 22, 2022

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In Holy Baptism, we each bind ourselves to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being. God names us, claims us as beloved, and incorporates us into the Body of Christ. The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri is committed to fully living out our Baptismal Covenant by keeping our siblings in Christ within our diverse communities of faith safe.

We best live our Baptismal call by recognizing and honoring the divine presence in everyone we meet. Misconduct by clergy, lay employees, or members of our congregations violates the vows of our Baptism and harms the members of the Body of Christ.

As a Diocesan household, we are committed to holding each other accountable in love and ensuring that everyone is afforded dignity and respect. Using the revised Safe Church Model Policies training ensures that those, especially in roles of leadership, are trained to recognize and respond to signs of abuse, predation, and misconduct to help prevent abuse from occurring.

As a part of our commitment as a Diocese, each year the lay and ordained staff and volunteers at all our parishes will need to review the Safe Church policies located on our Diocesan website. Congregational leadership, either clergy or warden, will need to digitally attest that everyone who is required to be trained has read and reviewed the Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth and the Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults by **April 1, 2022**. We continue to work to create a culture around Safe Church that is centered on Baptismal living and our commitment to love our neighbor rather than simply ticking a box and completing training.



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Our Diocesan Task Force on Safe Church is working diligently to make the process of training and reporting more easily accessible and to keep everyone up to date on the changes being made to the online training.

The Task Force and I are grateful for the many ways in which we continue to live more fully into the Covenant of Baptism through the safety and well-being of others. May we all seek to serve Christ in respecting the dignity and Divine presence in every person we meet.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deon K. Johnson".

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson
Bishop of Missouri

Members of the Diocesan Task Force on Safe Church

Ms. Alexia Dukes
Episcopal Church of All Saints and
Ascension, Northwoods

Mrs. Doris Lucy-Goodlow
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville

The Rev. David Malek
Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis

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Mrs. Jess Speropulos
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The Rev. Joseph Thompson, Ph.D.
Virginia Theological Seminary