

Our Mission – Our Policy

Since the earliest days of the church, we have come together to worship and live out our faith. We continue in that tradition today. As a people of faith we reach out to those in need. We counsel, we help, we teach. Each of us brings unique gifts to share.



At the core of this spiritual helping is a sacred trust which must be protected and never misused.

We desire that our Church be a clear symbol of the Kingdom of God – a safe and holy place for all whom our ministry touches.

Therefore it is the policy of the Diocese of Ottawa that all, including clergy, staff and volunteers, who come into contact with vulnerable people, be screened in a manner appropriate to the ministry or job being undertaken.

Screening in Faith

We are a community within which “love, justice, truth, peace and self-discipline are nurtured and valued.” It is sad that this has not always happened. Some men, women and children have been hurt by people that they should have been able to trust, and in places where they should have been safe.



We must do everything we can to protect the children and other vulnerable people in our care. This is an essential element of our call to service.

Our Church has a programme called **Screening in Faith**. Screening is designed to exclude any who are unsuitable or likely to offend. This approach will make our programmes safer for:

- children,
- the frail elderly
- the physically disabled,
- the mentally vulnerable,
- and our dedicated volunteers.

Diocesan Screening Initiative

The overall aim for this policy is to ensure that there is a safe environment in every parish, ministry, and activity. This includes children, seniors, any who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually vulnerable, and those who are ministering in our Church.



The sign of Christ’s life must be that our Lord teaches and invites respect for all and that all in the Church must be safe

We like to think all our members are dedicated, and every Anglican congregation is “just like ours”. The vast majority of our members are indeed above reproach but we must not close our eyes to the facts. We must, morally, legally and spiritually, do all we can to make sure our church; its clergy, paid and lay workers, and the participants in our church-sponsored activities are as safe as is possible.

This brochure reflects a shared commitment and joint working process among our Partners in Faith,

- Anglican,
- Roman Catholic,
- Unitarian Universalist,
- Pentecostal Assemblies
- and United Churches

Valuable help with Policy Development was provided by the Coalition of Faith Partners, at the Provincial and Federal levels

It is a signal of co-operation with our many Partners in caring, including

- Volunteer Canada,
- Scouts Canada,
- Sports & Recreation Canada

For more information, you may visit the Parish and Diocesan Services office. Related materials are also available for downloading, on our Web page, at www.ottawa.anglican.ca/screen.html

The Ten Safe Steps of Screening in Faith

BEFORE YOU RECRUIT:

- 1. Determine the risk**
- 2. Write a clear volunteer ministry description**
- 3. Establish a formal recruitment process**

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PERSON:

- 4. Use an application form**
- 5. Conduct interviews**
- 6. Follow up on references**

- 7. When appropriate, request a Police Records Check**

AFTER HIRING/ACCEPTING:

- 8. Conduct orientation and training sessions**
- 9. Supervise and evaluate**
- 10. Follow up with programme participants**

Diocese of Ottawa



Screening in Faith

The 10 Safe Steps

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*They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,
for the earth shall be full
of the knowledge
of the Lord (Is 11:9)*

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