

**The First Congregational Church of Dunbarton NH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**SAFER SPACES POLICY 2011**<sup>1</sup>

**GOALS:**

- **Create** an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, exploitation and/or intimidation.
- **Prevent** and **Correct** the following abuses: sexual, spiritual, emotional and physical.
- **Be aware** of the impact your words and actions may have upon those you are serving.
- **Nurture safety** by being attentive to self-care, education, and referrals to supportive and helpful resources.

**STRATEGIES:**

- **Adequate supervision** for all youth activities requires: **1 adult/6 minors** with a minimum of **2 adults present at all times**. One on one adult/child interactions should be avoided except in unavoidable and/or short-term situations. All activities may be interrupted and/or observable by others at all times.
- **Training** in “Safer Spaces” policies provided to all who minister before the start of their program or event.
- **Permission slips and health forms** for minors should be received prior to any program or event stating contact information and any restrictions.
- **Any behaviors perceived to be sexually, spiritually, emotionally and/or physically inappropriate should be reported immediately to the Pastor** who will refer the situation, if necessary, to the police, NH Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), and/or the NH Conference Ministry team. This includes any knowledge of or suspicion of abuse to minors, elderly, handicapped persons or other infractions to this policy. Any reports of this nature will be held in the strictest confidence.
- RSA 169-C:29-30 NH Law requires any person who has reason to suspect that a **child under 18** has been abused or neglected must report the case to: **NH Division of Children, Youth, & Families at 1-800-894-5533** No proof is required to make a report; reports are confidential and can be made anonymously; call police during DCYF non-work hours (4:30pm-8am)
- RSA 161-F:46 NH Law requires any person suspecting that **any incapacitated adult** is being abused, neglected, exploited or living in hazardous conditions shall **report to the authorities** (commissioner or police)

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ “Safer Spaces” Policy.