

# **Children and Youth Protection Policy**

## **Bethel Mennonite Church**

### **Preamble**

We desire to create a safe environment for all who worship and fellowship with us. By adopting the following safeguards we hope to protect the children and youth in our care, and those who work and volunteer in our organization.

We recognize that sexual and physical abuse is a serious problem in today's world. This type of mistreatment violates the very image of God. It causes serious damage to the mind, body and spirit of the one abused. It causes harm to the mind and soul of the abuser. Finally, abuse damages the holy sanctuary of the church community.

We seek to adopt the following safeguards in the manner of our Lord who addressed evil clearly with the ultimate goal of bringing wholeness and healing with integrity to all involved.

### **Policy**

The Administrative Council shall be responsible to establish children and youth safety guidelines and procedures for church employees and volunteers. Guidelines and procedures shall cover at least the following areas:

- A. A screening process for all applicants, employees or volunteers, prior to working with children or youth ministry programs.
- B. An annual training session on child and youth protection safeguards.
- C. Safety precautions for children, workers, and facilities.
- D. Reporting procedures when child abuse or neglect is suspected or identified.
- E. Guidelines for ministry to those involved, following an investigation of child abuse or neglect.

Recommended by the Administrative Council: October 4, 2006

Adopted: October 22, 2006