

The Safeguarding Committee continues to be very active in our work of establishing SCYMF as a safe community for our children. Writing and editing the policy last year was just the start of our work.

The Safeguarding policy was approved at annual sessions, June 2022. At the February 2023 quarterly gathering we asked member meetings to implement it. [Here's](#) the link.

To advance the implementation, we feel that two structural changes would be very helpful.

(1) We request administrative help, in the form of a paid staff person at the Yearly Meeting Level to aid each meeting in their safeguarding efforts.

(2) We need to expand our committee and be sure that we reach into every local meeting so we ask that our committee include a representative from each meeting. These two needs are spelled out in more detail below.

Seeking Administrative Help: Our committee is asking SCYMF to consider hiring a paid administrator to help all of our member Meetings to establish a culture of safeguarding. We believe this person could complete this task by maintaining routine communication and check-ins with pastors/people in charge of their individual Meetings, and those who are planning SCYMF gatherings. These communications will help individual Meetings and SCYMF as a whole in our efforts to implement the policy and a culture of safeguarding. This will include:

- Offering assistance to individual Meetings on how to use our new background check system
 - Assuring that each Meeting has the proper forms available to them that are required in the policy, and that those forms are filed into our background check database.
 - Assisting individual Meetings in making sure they've fulfilled the requirements of the policy for outside groups using their space

- Handle registrations for necessary volunteer trainings and assure all volunteers have completed the training prior to being able to work with children.

It is our hope that our community will continue to grow, and so we hope that this will become a regular, paid position for SCYMF into the foreseeable future. The Safeguarding Committee could be the main supporting body for this hired position, which could include supervisory functions. Our committee believes this will go a long way to firmly establish SCYMF as a safe place for our children.

Representation on the Safeguarding Committee: Currently our committee has representation from Camas, West Hills , Eugene, and Hillsboro. We need a representative from Klamath Falls, North Seattle, and Silverton to serve on our committee. Our committee meets once a month for at least one hour, but no more than 90 minutes, although we have met more than once in a month at times. Typically, each committee member leaves our meetings with a task to complete before our next gathering. Typically, these tasks include work within their local Meeting. In addition, having a rep from each Meeting allows us, as a committee, to be aware of the unique situations of that Meeting as we work on crafting/editing our policy and its implementation. We put this need out to the SCYMF community in the hopes that at least one person from the three Meetings mentioned above can be nominated to our committee.

Updates/Edits to the Policy: As we have said, our Safeguarding Policy is an alive document. We intend to continue to sculpt it as our community changes/grows, and as new needs arise. Be prepared to hear from us at each quarterly gathering about how we are still working on perfecting our policy! For this year, here are some changes to note:

- We are aware that there is a conflict-of-interest issue in our policy with regard to reports of abuse that may have been perpetrated by a pastor or the designated person-in-charge of a Meeting. We have edited our policy to address this. See our "Policy Changes Advance Document".

Safeguarding Committee

Advance Document Sierra-Cascades YMF

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- We have been working with our insurance company to hone our policy with regard to outside groups using our facilities. At our May committee meeting we spent most of our time threshing out the best way to address this. We are working on these proposed policy changes and show the current actionable policy in our “Policy Changes Advance Document”.