

Dear Lewinsville Volunteers,

Many, many thanks for your willingness to serve in one of our ministries that involves children and youth. The faith formation of younger generations is a *crucial part of our ministry at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church*. And that ministry would not happen without volunteers like you, who are willing to share your time, your faith, and your care with the young people of this church and beyond. THANK YOU.

In our ministry with young people, it is essential that Lewinsville be a **safe space** and a congregation that **fosters healthy respect for all people**. Young people's growth to wholeness depends on having a safe space in which to meet, discuss, learn, and become the beloved people of God that they were created to be. Towards that end, the Session of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church has developed and approved the enclosed "Sexual Misconduct and Child Protection Policy Statement." The purpose of this statement is to *raise congregational awareness* of the seriousness of sexual misconduct and to *help prevent such sexual misconduct* from occurring in the church.

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE STATEMENT. If you have any questions about any of the contents, I would be very glad to speak with you. As volunteers with children and youth, there are several key guidelines:

- 1) **No Exploitative Touch:** All staff and volunteers will not touch or interact with children or youth in any way that is intended to be sexually stimulating, emotionally demeaning, or exploitative. Care must be taken that physical expressions of affection are not excessive or imposed upon another individual.
- 2) **No Sexual Harassment:** It is not only inappropriate physical contact that we must avoid, but any speech that would create a sexually offensive environment.
- 3) **Two-Person Guideline:** Persons who are present with children in all church programs should work in pairs, whenever possible.
- 4) **Travel in Groups:** When engaged in activities away from the church, children and youth should be transported in groups. An unaccompanied adult should not drive a single child in a church-sponsored activity without permission, preferably in writing, from the child's parent or guardian.

These and the other guidelines have been adopted for the purpose of creating a healthy, safe atmosphere for faith formation at Lewinsville. Thank you for your commitment to the health and well-being of our entire congregation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Blessings,

Scott Ramsey
Pastor