

Vienna Presbyterian Church

Child Protection Policy

*“How great is the love that the Father has lavished on us,
that we be called children of God!
And that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1*

September 2009

703-938-9050
703-938-8264 FAX

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Child Protection Policy

I. PURPOSE, APPLICABILITY, SCOPE AND POLICY TERMS

Purpose

This policy is intended:

- To be faithful to our baptismal vows as we seek to welcome children and provide building blocks to spiritual growth.
- To provide a safe and secure environment for children at Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC).
- To protect children from sexual, physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse while participating at VPC activities.
- To provide a mechanism to deal with reported concerns, allegations and subsequent actions.
- To guide VPC as an institution in the conduct of its employees and volunteers and prevent incidents and allegations of child abuse.
- To help prevent adult volunteers, pastors and employees from being subjected to unwarranted allegations of child abuse.

This policy addresses the five components of child protection:

1. Screening applicants for employment and volunteer service for a history of behavior potentially detrimental to children.
2. Training pastors, employees and volunteers about the Child Protection Policy and appropriate screening and supervision.
3. Reporting allegations and/or concerns regarding child protection issues.
4. Responding to concerns and/or allegations regarding child protection issues.
5. Ministering to victims of any abuse that occurred as a result of the reported allegations.
6. Ministering to known offenders who are members or regular attendees of VPC.

Applicability

This policy applies to persons including VPC pastors, employees and volunteers participating in any children's programs of VPC, including but not limited to:

- Sunday school classes
- Children and Student Ministries fellowship programs
- Preschool
- Children and Youth Fellowship Choirs
- Church-sponsored retreats, mission trips, etc.
- Vacation Bible School
- Nurseries and Childcare

Scope

Who is governed by this policy?

This policy supersedes all prior VPC children and youth protection policy statements.

- All pastors and employees of VPC, including the staff of the preschool.
- All independent contractors who work with VPC and have any direct contact with children.
- All volunteers of VPC who have any contact with children in a supervisory role.
- All leaders of non-VPC sponsored groups and events using VPC facilities, which have direct supervision of children.

What does the policy require?

- All pastors, employees and volunteers shall abide by the Code of Conduct.
- Each person must assume responsibility for his/her own actions in working with children.
- Each person will be required to attend training offered on child protection.
- An individual may be terminated from employment and/or volunteer service for failure to observe and abide by this policy. This action may be taken regardless of the outcome of any investigation if the Executive Director, Director of Children's Ministries or Director of Student Ministries determines that the Child Protection Policy and procedures have not been followed or the investigation reveals patterns of behavior that raise concerns.

Policy Terms (glossary)

Child– is a person considered a minor under the law of the Commonwealth of Virginia. As of June 2006 the state of Virginia considers anyone under the age of 18 to be a minor. A person who is legally incompetent is also considered a child by this policy.

Child Abuse – a non-accidental injury or pattern of injuries to a child caused by an adult.

Child abuse may include but not be limited to:

- **Neglect** – Occurs when adults responsible for the well-being of a child fail to provide for the child. Neglect may include not giving food, clothing, shelter; failure to keep children clean, lack of supervision or withholding medical care.
- **Physical Abuse** – An injury or pattern of injuries caused by an adult that happen to a child that are not accidental. These injuries may include beatings, burns, bruises, bites, welts, strangulation, broken bones or death.
- **Sexual Abuse** – Sexual abuse is the sexual assault or exploitation of a child by an adult. This includes, but is not limited to, any contact or interaction between a child and an adult when the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the adult or of a third person. Sexual abuse may consist of numerous acts over a long period of time or a

single incident. This behavior may or may not involve touching. Types of abuse which do not involve direct touching include: sexual remarks; pornography of any kind; obscene phone calls, emails, text messages or other electronic communications; exhibitionism; and allowing children to witness sexual activity. Types of abuse which do involve touching include touching any part of the body which makes the child feel uncomfortable or where there is sexual intent, real or perceived.

- **Emotional Abuse** – Persistent acts by an adult that endanger the mental health or emotional development of a child including rejecting, ignoring, terrorizing, corrupting, constant criticizing, making mean remarks, insulting and withholding love, guidance or support.
- **Spiritual Abuse** – Using religious references to motivate a child into a particular action or behavior through shame.

Church Sponsored Activity – Includes any and all gatherings that arise from VPC –worship, educational, fellowship, administrative, pastoral, mission or recreational events. These events include on-campus and off-campus events.

Criminal Background Investigations – There are 2 levels of background investigations that will be completed through a company approved by our insurance carrier. The first level of background check will consist of a Social Security Number verification, a National Criminal File search and a Regional Criminal File search. The second level of background check will include all of the items listed previously plus County Courthouse searches. This is a much more intensive search and will be used for employees and V3 volunteers.

Director of Children’s Ministries – This Director is responsible for planning, developing and overseeing the Children’s Christian education program at VPC. This Director is responsible for all Sunday School teachers for children in 6th grade and below, all paid and unpaid child caregivers, interns, and volunteers participating in Children’s Ministries at VPC. This Director is also responsible for the Vacation Bible School Program and the volunteers who assist with the program.

Director of Preschool – This Director is responsible for all aspects of the Preschool. This includes, enrollment of students, hiring of teachers, preparing curriculum, etc. While the Preschool is in many ways its own entity, this Director does report to the Director of Children’s Ministries.

Director of Student Ministries – This Director is responsible for planning, developing and overseeing the Student Ministries program at VPC. This Director is responsible for Sunday School programs and all other activities for children in junior and senior high and all teachers/volunteers involved in those programs. This Director also oversees the Summer Mission Projects and the volunteers who participate in those events.

Employee – is the comprehensive term used to cover persons who are officially offered and agree to perform work on a regular basis in exchange for compensation.

Executive Director/Executive Associate Pastor (referred to as Executive Director throughout policy)- is responsible for overseeing the management of VPC employees and volunteers. The Executive Director is the person who should receive reports alleging any type of violation of this policy.

Pastor – a person ordained to ministry of word and sacrament called to serve in a particular congregation.

Sponsor – a volunteer who is currently active and well known by the Director of the program and/or the ED/EAP and who agrees to provide leadership to a person who wishes to volunteer with a children’s program but does not meet the 6 month attendance requirement.

Volunteer – is the term used for those who provide services for VPC and who receive no benefit or compensation. The different levels of volunteers and screening standards for each level are listed below.

V1 – An adult, 18 years and older, who assists with the care and/or supervision of children in a structured setting. This would include Sunday school teachers and volunteers who help with larger events serving food, helping with crafts, cleaning up, etc.

V2 – An adult, 18 years or older, who assists with the care and/or supervision of children and/or youth in an unstructured setting. This would include volunteers who assist with smaller more intimate settings but would not include overnight events or driving children to and from events.

V3 – An adult, 18 years or older, who assists with the care and/or supervision of children in an unstructured setting which would include overnight events and/or driving responsibilities.

Underage Volunteer – a child under the age of 18 but 12 or older who has been sponsored by a volunteer and approved by the ministry director.

II. SCREENING PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

The screening process for prospective employees will be conducted by Human Resources and for volunteers the process will be completed by the Director of Children’s Ministries and the Director of Student Ministries. Pastors are screened by the Presbytery prior to accepting a Call with any church organization.

Employees: Any candidate who has a past conviction of or a pending proceeding addressing an allegation of child abuse or neglect cannot be employed by Vienna Presbyterian Church without express written approval of the Staff Committee and the Executive Director. The Staff Committee and the Executive Director will consider the available information related to the circumstances of the situation in order to make a determination about the employment of the

individual in question. Active substance abuse or a conviction for any of the following will automatically disqualify an individual from employment with children: pedophilic behavior, incest, rape, assaults, indecent exposure, pornography, sodomy or abuse of a minor.

Volunteers: Any candidate for volunteer service who has a past conviction of or pending proceeding addressing an allegation of child abuse or neglect cannot work with children at Vienna Presbyterian Church. Active substance abuse or a conviction of any of the following will automatically disqualify an individual from volunteer service with children: pedophilic behavior, incest, rape, assaults, indecent exposure, pornography, sodomy or abuse of a minor.

Employees will be required to:

- complete an Employment Application
- go through the interview process
- provide at least 3 references
- undergo a criminal background investigation
- review and sign the Child Protection Acknowledgment Form.

All documentation will be held in the Employee's Confidential Personnel file.

Volunteers will be required to:

- complete and sign the Volunteer Application Form, which includes a statement where the person agrees to abide by the CPP – Appendix 1
- go through the interview process
- provide at least 3 references
- must be regular participant in the life of the church for at least 6 months or be sponsored for 6 months by a volunteer in good standing in the program, to be determined by the Director of that ministry and/or the Executive Director.
- Volunteer levels V2 and V3 will also undergo a criminal background investigation.

All documentation will be held in a confidential volunteer file in the church Human Resources office.

Pastors and Independent Contractors will be required to

- Read the Child Protection Policy and sign the Child Protection Acknowledgment Form
- VPC does not conduct criminal background investigations on pastors. This is done by the Presbytery prior to a call being accepted.

The above records will be made available to the employee or volunteer if a written request is made to the Executive Director. They will not be released to any party except with written approval of the Executive Director.

Leaders of non-VPC-sponsored groups and events using VPC facilities, upon receipt of the policy from VPC, must review the Child Protection Policy and sign the Outside Group Leaders Form. This form acknowledges their review of the policy and confirms their agreement to follow it and also gathers contact information to be used by the person scheduling all events for VPC . This includes but is not limited to groups such as: AA, ALANON, Birthday Parties, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc. (Given the nature of the outside groups that use VPC facilities, VPC will not perform background checks, seek personal and professional references, or review

employment records. Leaders of outside groups are expected to conduct their own due diligence in this regard.)

III. CODE OF CONDUCT

VPC pastors, employees and volunteers:

1. will endeavor to provide emotional, physical and spiritual support to children through common expression of affection (hugs from the side), affirmation (pats on the back), and support (prayer). These expressions are appropriate in our caring Christian community, however, care must be taken that any physical expressions of affection are not excessive or imposed upon another individual.
2. will not verbally, emotionally, physically, spiritually or sexually abuse children.
3. will not discipline children by use of physical punishment or by failing to provide the necessities of care.
4. may use physical restraint only in situations necessary to protect the child or others from harm.
5. will provide proper supervision and exercise sound judgment in providing safe environments at all times for children.
6. will observe the Two-Adult policy in their interaction with children as defined on the following page.
7. will respect the rights of children not to be touched in ways that make them feel uncomfortable, and their right to say no. Adults will discourage children from touching others in an inappropriate manner.
8. should be alert to the physical and emotional state of children entering VPC programs. (Significant changes could be an indicator of abuse that is taking place.)
9. will not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or be impaired by legally prescribed drugs during church working hours or church sponsored programs.
10. will not smoke except in designated areas. VPC is a smoke-free facility. Smoking or use of tobacco during church programs is prohibited.
11. will not use profanity, inappropriate language or jokes, or engage in any kind of harassment in the presence of children or parents.
12. will not share inappropriate details of their personal lives or ask children to share inappropriate details through any form of communication: written, verbal or electronic.
13. will not socialize with or provide mentoring to program participants without the knowledge and permission of the child's parents and program director.
14. will not give gifts to individual children without knowledge and permission of the child's parents and the VPC Children's Ministries or Student Ministries Director.

IV. TRAINING

All VPC pastors, employees and volunteers who have contact with children will be required to attend the annual training and review the current Child Protection Policy and sign a Recombitment Acknowledgment Form.

Training for Pastors, Employees, Church Officers and Volunteers

All pastors, employees and volunteers who have any contact with children are required to attend one foundational training session prior to working with children and annually thereafter and to sign the relevant documents regarding child protection. This foundational training will include the following:

- The need for the Child Protection Policy
- Definition of child abuse
- Preconditions for sexual abuse to occur
- Definitions of inappropriate conduct
- Church policies governing working with children
- Procedures for reporting allegations and/or concerns regarding child protection issues
- Procedures for responding to allegations and/or concerns regarding child protection issues

Training sessions will be held annually. Human Resources will work with staff management to keep track of employee attendance while each Director will be responsible for making sure their volunteers are trained each year. VPC Church Officers will be exposed to a foundational training presentation during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Session.

Training for Children

Parents bear the primary responsibility for teaching their children about child protection and safety issues. Nonetheless, from time to time, VPC will offer age-appropriate educational opportunities for children, these sessions may include their right to be free from unwelcome and inappropriate touching or remarks, how to report their concerns, and understanding church policies regarding their safety. Parents will be advised prior to any such educational sessions.

V. GUIDELINES FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The following guidelines are for the purpose of protecting both the children from situations where abuse may occur and the adults from the possibility of false accusations.

For legal and safety purposes, the following are the recommended minimum adult: child ratios:

Birth – 4 years	1:4
5 years – 8 years	1:10
9 years – 14 years	1:15
15 years – 18 years	1:25

Two-Adult Policy

At least two adults will supervise all church-sponsored programs and activities involving children, whether on or off campus.

Adults in leadership roles are to avoid situations, on campus or off, where they are alone with children by having at least two adults for all activities.

When one-on-one interactions between children and employee/volunteers are necessary (e.g. in emergency situations or occasions of pastoral care), care must be taken to conduct the meeting in an environment that provides visibility by other adults. Another adult must have the knowledge of the employee/volunteer's whereabouts and with whom they are meeting.

Restroom supervision for children under 9:

- VPC employees and volunteers will assure that suspicious or unknown individuals are not occupying the restroom before allowing children to use the facilities.
- Children will be sent in pairs, and whenever possible, with VPC employees and volunteers. VPC employees and volunteers will stand in the restroom doorway while children are using the restroom and in visual sight of another adult.
- VPC employees and volunteers will call on the Children's Ministries staff, who may be floating from room to room, to assist with restroom supervision in order to maintain the Two-Adult rule.
- VPC employees and volunteers will always use proper supervision when children are using public bathrooms off campus to ensure their safety.
- If VPC employees and volunteers are assisting children younger than 5, doors to the facility must remain open.

Classroom Management for children under 9:

- VPC employees and volunteers should release children to only the authorized parent, guardian, or other individual authorized in writing by the parent or guardian.
- VPC employees and volunteers should take periodic headcounts of the children they are supervising to ensure everyone is accounted for at all times.

Publishing Personal Information:

VPC shall not publish children's personal information in any public forum (web site, newsletter, etc.) without parental permission.

VI. REPORTING

Reporting child abuse and suspicions of child abuse are required by this policy, the VPC Sexual Misconduct Policy and by Fairfax County law.

A. Allegations of Child Abuse

1. Every VPC Pastor, employee or volunteer is required to report any situation which presents a suspicion that child abuse may have occurred. Such a report shall be made to the Director of

Children's Ministries or Director of Student Ministries, within 24 hours after such occurrence, who will report to the Executive Director or Senior Pastor.

2. Any report of child abuse made by a child accusing a parent, guardian, youth, adult, or VPC pastor, employee or volunteer, despite how unlikely such a report may seem, must be relayed to the Director of Children's Ministries or Director of Student Ministries who will report it to the Executive Director or Senior Pastor.
3. The Executive Director, as required by law, shall report the situation to Child Protective Services of Fairfax County or other local authorities for investigation.
4. All concerns and reporting shall be kept confidential.
5. The identities of the people involved in a report will be protected.

B. Other Concerns

From time to time, issues may arise regarding the conduct of our children and adults at VPC that do not appear to be abuse-related issues but impinge upon child protection and safety, and may require attention and review. Examples of issues reported might include:

- Child safety such as: water-based activities, transportation issues, behavior issues, etc., during children's activities
- Adult's behavior during VPC sponsored activities such as inappropriate language, dress, conduct, safety, leadership, discipline, substance abuse, etc.
- Children's behavior during VPC sponsored activities such as inappropriate language, dress, conduct, safety, leadership, discipline, substance abuse, etc.
- Lack of adherence to the Child Protection Policy
- Potentially inadequate, inappropriate or unwise leadership of Children's Ministries and Student Ministries activities.

1. All adults and children are encouraged to report any issues as soon as possible to the responsible adult leader at the time the issue is observed. It is important to bring issues of safety to the attention of the responsible adult(s) as soon as possible. Such notification may be oral.
2. When it is appropriate or more comfortable, anyone who wishes to have a concern addressed is encouraged to bring the issue to the attention of the Executive Director, Director of Children's Ministry, Director of Student Ministry or Volunteer Staff either verbally or in writing. All individuals are encouraged to be responsible in identifying issues and it is desirable that such concerns bear the name of the originator.
3. Any concern shared should be documented and filed in the appropriate confidential file (employee, volunteer, ministry) to make sure any patterns or trends are not overlooked. These files are maintained by Human Resources.
4. VPC maintains a box for suggestions and concerns outside the church office where any adult or youth can anonymously report any concern or issue. You may also send concerns to cpconcerns@viennapres.org realizing that email messages are not necessarily anonymous. Both mailboxes will be monitored by the Executive Director and Human Resources.

C. Other Circumstances

VPC pastors, employees and volunteers are required to report to the Executive Director any circumstances that under this policy affect their ability to work with children.

VII. RESPONDING

A. Allegations

In the event of an allegation of child abuse, the following procedures will be followed at Vienna Presbyterian Church:

1. Allegations of abuse shall be brought to the Executive Director, Senior Pastor or Presbytery, as appropriate. The Executive Director and Senior Pastor will consult with each other and then meet with the accused to discuss the allegations.
2. Every allegation shall be taken seriously. Adequate care, respect, and confidentiality shall be offered to alleged victims and perpetrators until the allegation is substantiated or cleared.
3. The Executive Director will immediately contact the VPC attorney, Fairfax County authorities, VPC's liability insurance carrier and the Staff Committee.
4. Following a consultation with the VPC attorney; the Executive Director may update the accused individual about the status of the concern or allegation.
5. Written documentation relating to the matter shall be kept in a confidential file.
6. The Executive Director and Staff Committee will conduct an internal investigation in addition to that which will be carried out by the authorities, following the required notifications.
7. Progress on the investigation will be documented on the Allegation Investigation Form.
8. A Pastor or employee accused of child abuse may be placed on administrative leave and asked to cease participation in Children's activities at the discretion of the Executive Director and Staff Committee. A volunteer will be asked to stop participating in children's activities until the allegations are investigated. This action would be to provide protection to the accuser during the investigative process.
9. In the event of an unsubstantiated allegation, the Executive Director will make a determination as to whether the individual will be allowed to return to work as an employee or volunteer at VPC. The individual's likely effectiveness in working with children following an allegation and investigation of abuse will be considered. An employee or volunteer has the right to appeal the decision to the Staff Committee in the appropriate time and manner. Should further resolution be needed, consult the rules of discipline per the Book of Order.
10. VPC pastors, employees and volunteers are expected to cooperate fully with the authorities, such as Vienna or Fairfax County Police and Fairfax County Child Protective Services.
11. All VPC pastors, employees and volunteers will refer any inquiries regarding the situation to the Executive Director. The Executive Director or his/her designee, shall be the only person authorized to release any information regarding an allegation except where the law requires others to release information, such as to a protective services investigator or a police officer.
12. All VPC pastors, employees and volunteers are expected to avoid denial, minimization or blame related to the allegation and investigation.

B. Other Concerns

1. Every report of a concern regarding the children of VPC shall be evaluated by the Executive Director or Ministry Director to determine if the report in fact represents a concern or suspicion of Child Abuse. Such concerns will be processed as described by this policy.
2. The Executive Director along with the Director of Children's or Student Ministries shall evaluate any report of a concern related to child protection and safety, even if it does not fall under the legal definition of abuse or its suspicion, to assure proper follow-up on the issue.
3. All concerns reported shall be documented and maintained for long term review of trends or patterns of unacceptable activity. If a trend or pattern develops, Human Resources will inform the Executive Director. The appropriate program director will be consulted and a plan developed for how to address the noted behavior pattern.

VIII. MAINTAINING A RESPONSIBLE & REDEMPTIVE ENVIRONMENT

“ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us. But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. If we say that we have not sinned, we make a liar out of God, and his word is not in us.” 1 John 1.8-10

At VPC we seek to live in covenant with God and with one another, and to be a redemptive community to all who participate. We also acknowledge that redemptive action and responsible action can at times, be in tension or even seeming opposition. We embrace this fact as a natural part of seeking to be the church in the world. We adopt these procedures for ministering to those among us who are known offenders of children while maintaining our focus on protecting the children of our church community.

1. Known offenders, who wish to become part of the VPC community, are expected to make their status and any terms of probation or parole known to the Executive Director.
2. The Executive Director will appoint a group of 3-5 disciples (one member to be from Staff Committee) to establish boundaries, in writing, governing the life of the offender within the church, including areas on campus where he/she may go unaccompanied. Group members will receive training in the protection of children and in dealing with any provisions of the VPC Child Protection Policy.
3. The known offender will give written acknowledgement and acceptance of VPC's Child Protection Policy and of the boundaries imposed.
4. At no time is a known offender to be assigned to activities with children.
5. At no time is a known offender to congregate with children.
6. At no time is a known offender allowed in areas of the church or grounds dedicated to children or in use primarily by children.
7. As circumstances warrant, the Executive Director may identify a known offender to church employees and volunteers whose ministries should be informed of this fact.

8. Known offenders will receive the normal pastoral care afforded to any disciple.
9. Should a known offender disregard the terms established in this policy, or should a known offender disregard any boundaries or conditions set by the Executive Director and his/her appointed group, the violation will be handled through the Rules of Discipline in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
10. Those struggling with sexual issues involving children are encouraged to seek support through the Executive Director or Senior Pastor, who will confidentially assist individuals in establishing boundaries.

VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ministry Volunteer Application Form

This application is to be completed by all volunteers who desire a ministry position involving the supervision or custody of children (anyone under the age of 18). This form is being used to help the church provide a safe, nurturing, Christian environment for the children who participate in our programs and use our facilities.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

How long at this address? _____ if less than 5 years, give previous address and length of time

Previous Address _____ Years: _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

How long have you been attending VPC? _____ Are you a member? Yes _____ No _____

If applicable, list the name and address of other churches you attended regularly during the past 5 years

Please list any VPC ministries in which you are or have been involved with over the past 5 years.

Please list any leadership/volunteer experience you have with children.

Please list any talents, training, education, etc. that would help enrich the lives of children _____

Age Preference: Birth – 4 yrs _____ 5 – 8 yrs _____

9 – 12 yrs _____ 13 – 14 yrs _____ 15 – 18 yrs _____

Vienna Presbyterian Church
124 Park Street, NE
Vienna, VA 22180
703-938-9050
703-938-8264 FAX

OFFICE USE ONLY: Volunteer Position(s)

NOTE: THIS INFORMATION TO BE USED ONLY AS STATED IN POLICY

Social Security _____ Date of Birth _____

Driver's License Number _____ State _____

Have you ever been charged or convicted of a crime? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain _____

Have you ever been convicted of, pled guilty or no contest to any traffic violations in the last five years? _____

If yes, please explain: _____

PERSONAL REFERENCES

(Reference checking is conducted at the discretion of the Ministry Director and depending upon the designated volunteer level)

GIVE THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT RELATIVES, WHO HAVE KNOWN YOU FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR. AT LEAST ONE REFERENCE MUST BE SOMEONE OUTSIDE VPC

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL.# _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL.# _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL.# _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL.# _____

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

The information provided in this application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize VPC to contact the churches and references provided to give information regarding my character and ability to work with children. I also authorize a criminal background investigation be conducted on me. I understand that the background check is subject to the Fair Credit Reporting Act and the proper procedures will followed. (A background check may or may not be conducted depending upon the designated volunteer level.)

Should my application be accepted, I agree to follow the Child Protection Policy and to refrain from inappropriate conduct in the performance of my services on behalf of VPC. I understand that any violation of this policy, including the Code of Conduct, may result in my termination of volunteer service with children.

I acknowledge that I have read the VPC Child Protection Policy and have received a copy for my personal use.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Employee and Volunteer Recommitment Form

This renewal of commitment form is to be completed by all employees after they have attended the required annual Sexual Misconduct/Child Protection Training. This form should also be completed by all volunteers who are in a position to supervise or care for children. All volunteers must also attend an annual training on child protection.

Name _____ Date _____

Is this a new address? Yes _____ No _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Have you been arrested or convicted of any criminal offense since you completed the VPC Volunteer Application or since you began your employment with VPC? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, please describe _____

EMPLOYEE RECOMMITMENT STATEMENT

I confirm that the information on this form is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that I have read the Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Child Protection Policy (CPP) and attended the required annual training. I agree to follow the both polices and to refrain from inappropriate conduct in the performance of my services on behalf of VPC. I understand that any violation of these polices or misrepresentation of information that I have provided may result in termination of my employment.

VOLUNTEER RECOMMITMENT STATEMENT

I confirm that the information on this form is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that I have read the Child Protection Policy (CPP) and attended the required annual training. I agree to follow the CPP and to refrain from inappropriate conduct in the performance of my services on behalf of VPC. I understand that any violation of the policy or misrepresentation of information that I have provided may result in termination of my volunteer position.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Vienna Presbyterian Church
124 Park Street, NE
Vienna, VA 22180
703-938-9050
703-938-8264 FAX

VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

124 Park Street, NW

Vienna Virginia 22180

703.938.9050

Facilities Use Contract (for all activities excluding weddings and funerals)

Policy and Regulations

This form is to be used when an organization or individual not affiliated with or a member of Vienna Presbyterian Church requests use of any portion of the church facility. In order to be considered for approval, applicants must complete this form and return it to the Operations Manager. All applications are subject to review and may take up to 3 weeks for approval.

Use of the building by non-church groups and/or individuals will not be guaranteed more than three months prior to the event. Particular room assignments may change as necessitated by church usage.

Non-church groups and/or individuals may be assessed a building use fee (see attached). This fee is to help defray the cost of building heating/air conditioning and maintenance.

Signs, posters, and flyers for event publicity may NOT be posted without written permission from the church office and must be appropriate in design and content.

Care, respect and good stewardship of the church facility are expected of each group/person. Courtesy to other users is required. Failure to meet these expectations may cause loss of permission to use the facility.

Use of the facility is limited to the actual room(s) reserved during the hours designated for use.

Groups will be held responsible for any damage to the building or equipment incurred during their use and may be required to provide full repair or replacement costs for damage.

Groups whose use necessitates more than normal cleaning may be assessed an additional fee, at the sexton's hourly rate.

All groups must have a designated leader and contact person. Youth and children's groups must have an adult leader (over age 21) present at all times. The designated leader is responsible for reading and making sure all members of the group follow the Child Protection Policy. A copy of the policy is attached for your convenience.

Groups are expected to assist with setup and take-down of chairs and tables for their events. If special room setup is needed (other than the available tables and chairs that are ordinarily in the room), the group must make arrangements for that set-up prior to the use.

Permanently set rooms are to be left by groups in the same condition and set-up as found.

Any group requiring special set-up assistance may be charged a fee for the services.

The use of drugs and alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the church building and on the church grounds.

Smoking and excessive noise are prohibited in the church building and on church grounds.

All events must conclude by 9:30 pm so the facility can be prepared for the next morning's events.

Please fill out completely and return to
VPC's Operations Manager
Vienna Presbyterian Church
124 Park Street, NE, Vienna VA 22180
Phone: 703.938.9050

Name of Meeting/Event _____

Description of Meeting/Event _____

Meeting Event Date(s) _____

Meeting Start Time _____ Meeting End Time _____

Set-up Time _____ Clean-up Time _____

Number of Participants _____
Adults Children

Room(s) Requested _____

Set-up Requirements for Room(s) _____

Contact Person(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail address(es) _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Designated Leader (if different from contact person) _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

For church use only: Group
Priority

Room Rental Rates

Space	Up to 4 hours	More than 4 hours
Meeting Room/Classroom	\$50	\$75
Parlor	\$60	\$90
Adult Library	\$60	\$90
Conference Room	\$60	\$90
Gathering Room	\$100	\$150
Great Hall	\$800	\$1200
Kitchen (user provides cleanup)	\$200	\$300
Activity Center	\$100	\$150
Choir Room	\$100	\$150
Sanctuary	\$500	\$750
Chapel	\$300	\$500
Sexton's Hourly Rate	\$25 per hour	\$25 per hour

Agreement: I have read, understand and assume responsibility for the requesting organization/group to abide by the Policy and Regulations governing the use of church facilities of Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC). I understand that this includes the Child Protection Policy. Should any incidents involving children occur I agree to notify the Executive Director immediately and cooperate with any investigation that may take place. I agree to the payment of the fee indicated on the Room Rental Rates.

VPC reserves first right to the use of this space. If VPC must use this space, a suitable alternative will be provided, if possible. At least two weeks' notice will be given in case of a room change (except in the case of an emergency). Cancellation by requestor must be made 48 hours in advance. Cancellation must be made via a phone call followed by e-mail or other written notification.

I will be especially aware of security and will return all church keys issued to me.

Signature of responsible organization representative

Date

User Responsibilities

1. User groups will have one designated responsible person sign for the access, security, cleanliness, and maintenance of the requested facility and who will assume full responsibility for any damage which may result for its use. The designated person will ensure that those persons in the group shall:
 - be mindful of the purpose and character of the church
 - conduct themselves with an appropriate respect for the church
 - conform to the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Fairfax County.
 - confine their activities to the facilities assigned, hallways, and restrooms.
2. Final security of the entire building rests with the last user. However, all members of the church and members of user groups should be alert to assist in properly securing the facilities. A security checklist will be provided to the designated person.
3. Common sense and consideration of others should guide those who use the facilities. No activity is permitted that may lead to injury of people or damage facilities. Users are responsible for returning all church property to its proper location and original condition after its use.
4. Any injuries should be reported immediately to the church office. A list of names and telephone numbers will be provided to the designated person.
5. Any damage, malfunctioning equipment, or maintenance needs should be reported to the church office.
6. All users of the church must be concerned with the use of fuel, electricity, heat and air conditioning in order to conserve energy and minimize operating costs. Instructions will be provided on operation of all equipment to be used as well as heating and cooling systems. Turn off all lights when leaving rented space and please do not adjust thermostat settings.
7. If any sextons are needed to prepare for or clean up after the meeting, contact the church office in advance. The group will be expected to reimburse the church for the extra work by the sexton. Users must return rooms to their original setup if furnishings are rearrange for the event/meeting.
8. Any youth or children present at the activities must be supervised from the time the first person arrives until the last person leaves.
9. Groups using the building on a continuing basis may not store materials in the building without permission from the church office. VPC is not responsible for personal property.
10. No drugs or alcoholic beverages are permitted in the church or on the church property.
11. Smoking is prohibited in the building.
12. Use of the kitchen must be in strict conformance with guidelines as posted in the kitchen.
13. Activities on Saturdays will be limited to those that will not interfere with the readiness for Sunday services.
14. Arrangements must be made through the church office for the use of any church equipment. Special permission from the Director of Music must be secured before using the baby grand piano or electric keyboard. Use of all equipment must be supervised by an adult.
15. Furniture and equipment in the Great Hall, the Gathering Space, Parlor, Sanctuary, and Chapel must be moved by or under the direction of a sexton or other member of the church staff,
16. Telephones may be used for local calls only.

Group Priorities

Group A – No Charge

VPC church-related groups/activities; i.e.

Boy Scout Troop 152

Pinewood Derby

Eagle Scout Ceremony

Blue Gold Dinner

Group B – No Charge

Groups/meetings not sponsored by VPC but with substantial participation by VPC members;
i.e.

Great Banquet

Pamela Vining (piano lessons)

Danielle Talamantes (voice lessons)

Group C – Generally no charge but donations will be requested/suggested

Groups who provide a community service and with whom VPC would have no theological issues, i.e.

AA

Nar-Anon

Al-Anon

The Women's Center

Lord of Life Church

MS Support Group

BPD Group

Group D – Fees charged per Space Rental Schedule

Groups who are not engaged in any activities that may be offensive to VPC members and who are not charging an admission fee; i.e.

Stamp Club

Vienna Woods Swim Club

5 Hills Garden Club

All groups that charge admission or may be offensive to VPC members or will be in direct conflict with those in the above prioritized groups will not be scheduled in the facility.

VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ALLEGATION INVESTIGATION FORM

This form needs to be completed for all allegations of sexual misconduct or abuse.

This form and all other documentation concerning an investigation of sexual misconduct must be kept in a confidential file.

Date	Completed By:	Action
		Report the allegation to the Executive Director , Senior Pastor or Presbytery as appropriate.
		Meet with the accuser to discuss the allegations.
		Meet with the accused to discuss the allegations.
		Contact VPC attorney, Fairfax County authorities, liability insurance carrier and Staff Committee.
		Update the accused with any information that may have come from the conversations with the above entities.
		For Pastors and paid staff: Remove the accused from the situation and suspend the accused from duties involving the victim or similar individuals. If deemed appropriate, place the accused on administrative leave.
		For volunteers: Remove the accused from the situation and suspend the accused from participating in any further volunteer activities until the investigation is complete.
		Offer the victim(s) a support through pastoral counseling, outside counseling, a group of trained VPC members to support the family and other involved parties.
		Publicize the cpconcerns@viennapres.org email address and physical concerns mailbox outside the office. Ask for any others who have information about the incident to please come forward.
		Interview any witnesses or other persons of interest who may have information about the allegation.
		If necessary, meet with the accuser again to review the allegation.
		If necessary, meet with the accused again to review the allegation.

		If the allegation is substantiated, determine what actions will be taken with the accused. Be sure this plan involves support for the accused as well as disciplinary actions.
		Meet with the victim to inform him/her of the findings of the investigation and what actions will be taken against the accused.
		Meet with the accused to inform him/her of the findings of the investigation and what actions will be taken.
		Assign someone to follow up with both the accused and the victim on a regular basis (frequency to be determined based on allegation and the needs of each party).
		Document what other agencies have been involved and what their findings are – Fairfax County, Presbytery, etc.
		File is closed once all actions have been taken and all support has been ended.