

COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

A prudent man sees evil and hides himself (Prov. 27:12a).

Children are a blessing from God, and He calls the church to support parents in their responsibility to train children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Therefore, the church should be a safe and blessed place for children where they can grow, play, form friendships, and learn to experience and share the love of Christ.

However, since sin affects every person and organization in the world, it is possible that children could be harmed even during church activities. We cannot guarantee that such things will never happen within our fellowship, but we are committed to taking reasonable precaution to protect our children from foreseeable harm. This commitment includes, but is not limited to, the following steps:

- We allow only established, formal members of Calvary Memorial Church to work with our youth (children or teenagers).¹ Normally, a waiting period of six months after formal membership will be observed before becoming eligible to serve in youth ministries.
- We require adults who work with our youth (children or teenagers) to successfully complete a screening process (including regular background checks and child safety training).
- Our goal is to have teams of two or more working with our youth and to work in visibly observable settings.

If a child is harmed during Calvary Memorial Church activities, we will take immediate steps to inform the parents, to accept responsibility for our role in the situation, to hold the offending person responsible for their actions, and to report the incident to the proper authorities as mandated by law. We will also evaluate our practices and procedures, considering changes that might reduce the likelihood of such harm to children in the future.

¹ Children under age 18 of established members who have demonstrated faithful ability and will work alongside adult members in an assisting role are the only exemption to this formal membership rule. Occasionally, other teens who are regularly involved in CMC ministries and are in good standing with a like-minded church may assist with childcare.