

REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S TASK FORCE FOR A SAFE CHURCH

FOCUS:

This group continues to expand our work in offering resources for lay workers and parishioners, clergy and the Diocesan judicatory network for the creation of a safer church. Those who serve on this team work at providing basic education in preventing misconduct. There are also team members who are especially trained in responding to situations where misconduct is alleged to have taken place. It should be noticed that increasingly there is a connection between this task force and the efforts of the Volunteer Screening and Development Group, under the able guidance of Joyce Wilton, as we work together for a safer, healthier church environment.

ACTIVITIES:

Our primary activity is to respond to situations where there is a concern that professional misconduct may have taken place and where individuals feel that the church is not a "safe place" for them.

The task force continues to provide orientation education to clergy and lay workers as they are licensed for professional ministry within the Diocese.

Members of the committee are also available for parishes, deanery groups and Clericus group both to educate people around issues of harassment and abuse and to work at prevention. In such settings, we assist people in understanding the policy as it currently exists.

Throughout the Canadian and North American churches, denominations are discovering that our "first efforts" in these policies were perhaps less than adequate. We continue to work at revamping the current policy in concert with both the national church, other Dioceses and other denominations.

MEMBERSHIP:

This committee includes clergy, pastoral specialists, lawyers and professionals with counseling and child welfare expertise.

The Right Reverend D. Ralph Spence
Mr. Graeme Leach
The Reverend David Long
The Reverend Rod McDowell, Deacon
The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell (Chair)
The Venerable Jim Sandilands
Ms Joyce Wilton

This year, we recognize the work of Canon Lynda Kealey, as a volunteer consultant.

Respectfully submitted,
Canon Marni Nancekivell, Chair