

## What is Safe Gatherings?

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Safe Gatherings is an online abuse prevention program that screens and trains volunteers, staff, and clergy to help prevent abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults in group settings. When employees and volunteers are trained to identify potential abusers, recognize the signs of abuse, and know how to handle reporting, they are better equipped to prevent abuse.

Upon successful completion of the Safe Gatherings application, background and reference checks, and online training program, each applicant will receive documentation of approval valid for three years and will have continued access to the online training program for one year.

The price per applicant for the program customized for Michigan UMC is \$45. Those applying as a Michigan Conference or District volunteer receive a \$15 discount.

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### Safe Gatherings

[safegatherings.com](http://safegatherings.com)

Contact the Safe Gatherings Team at

[contact@safegatherings.com](mailto:contact@safegatherings.com)

888-241-8258

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### Protection Policy Team & Michigan Conference Ministry with Children

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## Safe Gatherings and the Michigan Conference

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For Michigan Conference or District Volunteers





## Who Does This Effect?

- Everyone who wishes to be authorized to work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults for a Michigan Conference or district sponsored event or ministry.
- This includes (but is not limited to):
  - Childcare providers
  - Adult youth leaders or chaperones for youth events
  - Adults serving at district sponsored camps
  - District or Conference sponsored Mission Trips

## How Does Safe Gatherings Work?

Everything is on the Safe Gatherings website: [safegatherings.com](http://safegatherings.com)

Step 1: Click on “Get Started” from the home page

Step 2: Complete the information on the front page. For people who are applying as a Conference/District Volunteer the steps are:

- Choose language preference
- Select *Church or Faith-Based Organization*
- Select Denomination *Methodist*
- Select State: *Michigan*
- Type in (and then click on) *Michigan Conference/District Volunteers*
- Complete the rest of the form and click “next”. Continue with the application (applicant type: “*Michigan Conference/District Volunteers*” and select your district), history, references, disclosure, and release forms, and finally payment.
- The fee will automatically be \$30 (already includes the \$15 discount)
- Once the payment is received, the applicant will have access to the training.
- When the application is complete, applicants will be contacted with their approval or information about denial.

## What About Local Churches?

Local churches have access to use Safe Gatherings for background checks and training. Local churches need to contact Safe Gatherings to set up their account and fee. Applicants for local churches should not use the Conference/District Volunteer Applicant type.

Trainers may be available to assist local churches with protection policy and best practices training for local church authorization. More information will be available about this after October 1, 2019

Churches are responsible for their own policy and applications/background checks.

The Protection Policy page on the Conference website will also have new resources for local churches, including a local church training guide.



Photo by [Alexis Brown](#) on [Unsplash](#)