



st. andrew's church

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ON THE ISLAND OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Youth Policies Adopted by the Vestry of St. Andrew's, December 2, 2002

The following policies are to aid staff, volunteer advisors and youth as they participate in the youth ministry and programs of St. Andrew's Church. The youth programs are for all youth up to and including the age of 18 or through high school.

- 1) The Rector shall have complete oversight of all youth ministry including program, staff, volunteers and youth. In the event that the Rector hires staff to assist youth programs, staff will be subject to the appropriate background checks through law enforcement agencies prior to being hired.
- 2) Any person serving as a youth advisor or teacher, either paid or volunteer, is required to attend the sexual abuse and sensitivity training sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.
- 3) It is our desire to protect our youth from inappropriate behavior and to protect our adults from unfounded accusations of inappropriate behavior. In order to minimize the risk of these events, we ask that adult staff and volunteers make every effort to ensure they are not one-on-one, alone with youth. This means in both the settings for youth events and classes (wherever they may be) and in cars or other vehicles transporting youth. It is preferred to have one other adult or at least two youth with the adult. In some cases when this is not possible, the parents of the youth are to be advised of the circumstances as the situation arises.
- 4) The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs or weapons are absolutely prohibited. If this understanding is violated, the staff and/or adult volunteers will immediately contact the Rector and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the youth. Appropriate disciplinary action will be determined after all parties have met to discuss the incident.
- 5) Any problems about the activity or behavior of any youth or adult connected to these ministries and programs should immediately be addressed to the Rector, or, in the event the Rector is a party, the Wardens of St. Andrew's.