

Safeguarding Commissioning Service

INTRODUCTION

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The commissioning of Circuit Safeguarding Representatives and Church Safeguarding Contacts should take place at a Circuit Service

1. This or some other prayer:

Merciful God,
you renew the strength
of all who wait upon you.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that, in serving others,
we may always be true to Christ,
our Lord and Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PREFACE

2. The minister says:

Today we commission *those who offer themselves* for service as *Circuit Safeguarding Representatives and/ or Church Safeguarding Contacts* in the Methodist Church.

We are the Body of Christ:
each of us is a member of it.

There is one ministry of Christ:
in this ministry we all share.

There are different ways of serving God:
it is the same Lord whom we serve.

It is the duty of all in the Methodist Church to safeguard and promote the welfare of all, especially those who are vulnerable. In order that this ministry may be fulfilled, the Church appoints Circuit Safeguarding Representatives and Church Safeguarding Contacts.

It is their privilege and responsibility, in the name of Christ and on behalf of the whole Church:

to pray regularly for those whom they are concerned, to ensure that all are supported with care love and compassion;
and to take seriously the call of Christ to give comfort and support in time of need.

In all these things, they will seek for themselves and those in their care a deepening experience of God's grace in Christ.

Without God's help no one can exercise this ministry; but the Holy Spirit has been given to us, and is our Helper and Counsellor.

THE COMMISSIONING

3. At this point in the service all who are to be commissioned should be brought forward by children, Church Stewards or Circuit Stewards as a symbol of invitation and their names are read. The minister then says:

Sisters and brothers, do you believe that you are called by God through the Church to the work of Circuit Safeguarding Representative or Church Safeguarding Contact?

Answer: I do so believe.

Relying on God's grace, will you endeavour to fulfil this ministry?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

The minister says:

Let us pray.

We thank you, Gracious God,
that you have sent Jesus Christ your Son
to be our Shepherd and Saviour.
Give to *these* your *servants*
the power of the Holy Spirit
for this work and ministry;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

4. The people stand. The minister says to them:

Members of the Body of Christ, will you encourage these *Circuit Safeguarding Representatives and/ or Church Safeguarding Contacts* in *their* ministry and support *them* with your prayers?

With God's help, we will.

5. The minister gives the hand of fellowship to each *Circuit Safeguarding Representative and Church Safeguarding Contact*.
6. The service continues.