

ALBANY UU SERVICE OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Service Opportunity Name/Title: Safe Congregation Response Team Chair

Service Opportunity Brief Description:

The Safe Congregation Response Team Chair is in charge of the Team of five members who oversee Albany UU's Safe Congregation Policy and our congregation's approach to both preventing and responding to inappropriate behaviors, especially as they are directed toward children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Service Opportunity Detailed Description:

The chair is responsible for chairing the once-a-year regularly scheduled meeting of the Safe Congregation Response Team, and for organizing and chairing any additional meetings as required during the year. The Safe Congregation Response Team oversees Albany UU's Safe Congregation Policy and our congregation's approach to both preventing and responding to inappropriate, disruptive, or harmful behaviors, especially as they are directed toward children, youth and vulnerable adults.

The one regularly scheduled meeting, which takes place once a year right after new team members join, has several goals: to get to know one another, to review any existing Limited Access Agreements* with members, and to discuss ways the Team over the next year might be proactive in finding ways to promote healthy behaviors, discourage harmful behaviors, and protect the vulnerable. Typically, there are one to three meetings a year, the frequency depending on how many issues arise needing to be addressed.

*A Limited Access Agreement is a written agreement signed willingly by congregation leadership and a member whose presence in the building needs to be monitored and/or restricted in order to assure the safety of all members.

Length of Service Commitment: 1 year

This opportunity will enable you to play a key role in working to balance two vitally important congregational goals: keeping the congregation members safe, while at the same time being welcoming to those new people coming through our doors.

Skills Needed:

You should have experience working with materials that need to be kept confidential. This experience can come from having been a member of this Team, or from your professional background in such fields as minister, lawyer, psychologist, etc.

Sometimes, the team must solicit feedback from the congregation on difficult issues and be prepared to make hard decisions. As chair, you must be prepared to lead the team to conclusions on these difficult issues.

Training, assistance, and safety requirements:

As with the church Board members, members of the Team are required to take a one-hour online course entitled "Balancing Acts: Keeping children safe in congregations."

Number of positions available: __5__

Key words: