

First Presbyterian Church  
Greensboro, N.C.  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

A Vision for Children and the Church  
Adopted by the 205<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 1993

Because we affirm that all children are a gift of God, created  
by God and created good;  
all children are a gift to the whole of the human community;  
all children have a real faith, and gifts for ministry;  
all children have the right to be children;  
and all children are not just tomorrow, they are today.

Because we believe that all children depend upon adults for safety and security in a world  
that does not always value children;  
all children are affected first and most deeply by those things that work against  
health and wholeness;  
where there is disease, children sicken and die;  
where there is homelessness, children sleep on the streets and in other dangerous  
places;  
where there is war, children are frightened and without a safe place;  
where there air and water are polluted, children feel the effect in their bodies and in  
their futures;  
where there is shame, children's spirits are wounded.

Therefore we hope for a world where all children can find a safe place;  
where all ages, races, genders, creeds, and abilities are recognized, valued, and  
celebrated;  
where all adults hear the voices of children and speak with as well as for them;  
where all children have "first call" on the world's resources and first place in the  
minds and hearts of the world's adults.

Because Jesus welcomed children and encouraged us to welcome them in his name;  
Jesus lifted up a child as an example of what the realm of God is like;

Therefore we hope for a church where we take seriously our baptismal vow to nurture all  
children committed to our care;  
where we bring good news to all those places where children are in need;  
where adults and children alike share in ministry.

*We covenant to act so that this vision may be made real for all children, now and in times to come.*