



*The United Church of Canada is committed to providing a safe environment for worship, work and study in all Pastoral Charges, Congregations, institutions, agencies and organizations or other bodies, which operate under its name. This commitment will be demonstrated by staff, volunteers and ministry personnel showing respect for personal boundaries, protecting others from harm and abuse, and enabling all to learn and grow without fear.*

## What resources are available to me?

Coordinator of Lay Ministry  
Barbara Buchanan t. 416-481-1141 ext. 260

Chair of the Lay Ministry Committee  
Coral Martin t. 416-487-8083

### Ministers:

Connie Capes-Leslie  
t. 416-481-1141 ext. 310

Deborah Hart  
t. 416-481-1141 ext. 320

Don Parsons  
t. 416-481-1141 ext. 330

*Faithful Footsteps: Screening Procedures for Position of Trust and Authority in the United Church of Canada: A Handbook* (available in ESG library or from United Church of Canada at [ucrd@united-church.ca](mailto:ucrd@united-church.ca) or 416-253-4546)

*Screening in Faith: A National Education Campaign on Screening Resource* (available in ESG Library or from Volunteer Canada, 430 Gilmour St., Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0R8)

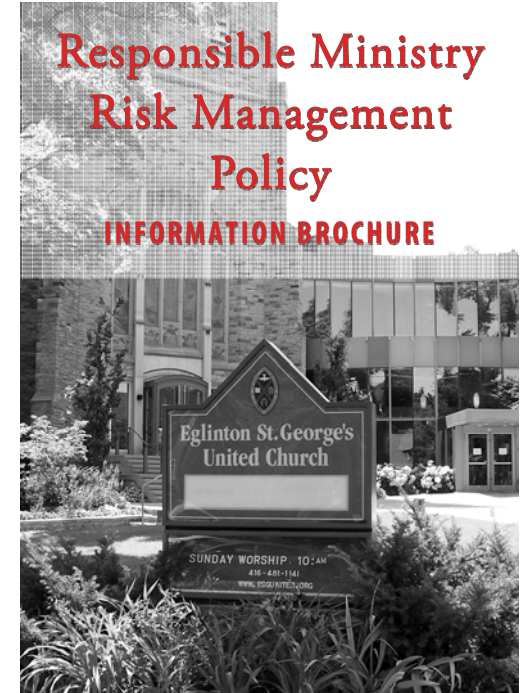
*Risk Management Policy for Responsible Ministry at Eglinton St. George's United Church* (available from Barbara Buchanan, see contact information above)

**EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH**  
35 Lytton Blvd.  
Toronto, ON M4R 1L2  
t. 416-481-1141  
f. 416-481-8999



EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S  
UNITED CHURCH

## Responsible Ministry Risk Management Policy INFORMATION BROCHURE



“God intends that all people enjoy a life free from exploitation and abuse. Created in the image of God, all persons have a right to be treated with respect and protected from harm.”

- UNITED CHURCH  
FAITHFUL FOOTSTEPS HANDBOOK

## *What is responsible ministry?*

The United Church is committed to providing a safe environment for all its activities. At Eglinton St. George's we expect all who work with vulnerable individuals (i.e. children and youth, the elderly, the sick) to do so in a responsible manner, creating a community of trust and safety for everyone.

In October 2005 Eglinton St. George's adopted a Risk Management Policy for Responsible Ministry, which seeks to reduce risk of harm and to support Responsible Ministry through a number of strategies.

### **These include:**

- Job descriptions for all lay ministry activities at ESG including a screening designation Assessment of the risk level for all lay ministry activities at ESG.
- Training workshops and screening procedures for activities and roles with medium and high risk designations.
- Information sharing about responsible ministry and duty of care for vulnerable members of our community.

## *What is Duty of Care?*

Along with other non-profit and community groups, Eglinton St. George's has a moral, legal, ethical and spiritual obligation to take reasonable measures to care for and protect the interests of other, including protection from harm.

## *What is risk management?*

### **Risk management means:**

Taking care to consider the possibility that something could go wrong; and taking steps to minimize, prevent or eliminate the circumstances that could lead to injury, abuse or harm to program participants.

Our Risk Management policy and procedures reflect our shared responsibility to look out for each other. Screening practices help create a safe environment. They are not a guarantee that everyone will be safe—no one can give that guarantee—but they prompt all of us to think more carefully about our collective responsibility for each other.

## *How does this impact me?*

As a member of the congregation you can be confident that risk management assessment has been done for all activities at Eglinton St. George's. As a parent you can

be confident that adults participating in programs with your children have been screened and trained. As a member volunteer at Eglinton St. George's you will be supported by a clear job description, risk management information and training workshops.

## *Who can I go to for help?*

The Lay Ministry Committee at ESG ensures the policy is implemented, provides information and training and keeps records and job descriptions up to date with the assistance of committee chairs. The Coordinator of Lay Ministry, Chair of the Lay Ministry Committee and Ministerial Staff are all available to answer questions, offer advice and receive suggestions.



[www.esgunitied.org](http://www.esgunitied.org)

**For general volunteering information about any Lay Ministry, contact Barbara Buchanan 416-481-1141 ext. 260, or email [barbara@esgunitied.org](mailto:barbara@esgunitied.org).**