

1 WHEREAS, the Kansas West Conference members are concerned for our youth and society and
2 recognize alcohol and other drug abuse as serious problems.

3
4 WHEREAS, our Kansas West Conference churches wish to express love and care for the well-
5 being of our youth and society through the Red Ribbon campaign.

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7 WHEREAS, we, the Kansas West Conference can make a difference in the lives of our youth and
8 society by specifically recognizing and supporting the Red Ribbon campaign.

9
10 **THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Kansas West Conference churches shall recognize**
11 **the Red Ribbon campaign, including but not limited to Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31,**
12 **2006.**

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14 *Information and Red Ribbon Resources are available from:*
15 **Kansas Family Partnership**
16 **2209 SW 29th Street, Topeka, KS 66611**
17 **(785) 266-6161 or 1-800-206-7231**

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19 **A booth will be at Annual Conference where Red Ribbons may be picked up. The National**
20 **Guard is providing these ribbons for our conference at no cost. Additional items may be**
21 **purchased and resource material on drug and alcohol abuse will be available.**

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25 **KANSAS WEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE POLICY**
26 **FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, YOUTH**
27 **AND DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED ADULT DEPENDENT PERSONS**

28 Presented by the Connectional Ministries Staff in accordance with the
29 established Sexual Ethics Policy for Church Professionals and Lay Employees

30
31 **PREFACE**

32 *"...Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not stop them;*
33 *for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does*
34 *not welcome the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.'" Luke 18: 16-17*

35
36 The innocence of children is what best enables them to seek out God with fearless enthusiasm.
37 That innocence is also what leaves them most vulnerable to abuse. The Kansas West Annual
38 Conference of The United Methodist Church recognizes that any abuse – physical, sexual or
39 emotional – against any person is destructive to his/her development and well-being and most
40 especially to a child, a youth or a developmentally disabled adult dependent person. Abuse of any
41 kind violates a person's wholeness and is an unjust use of status and power, and a sinful
42 behavior against God and one another. Therefore, The Kansas West Annual Conference of the
43 United Methodist Church is determined to minimize the risk of abuse to participants in activities of
44 the Kansas West Annual Conference and of its districts. Further we are called to be ministers of
45 healing and wholeness in the midst of the brokenness that is caused by abuse. To that end we
46 covenant to act justly in the interest of those who have been affected by abuse.

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48 **STATEMENT OF POLICY**

49 No staff person involved in any event sponsored by the Kansas West Annual Conference
50 of the United Methodist Church or any of its districts shall engage in physical abuse, sexual
51 abuse or sexual harassment of any child, youth, or developmentally disabled dependent person.
52 For purposes of this policy, any person under the age of 18 shall be considered a child or youth.
53 Furthermore, each local church is encouraged to adopt a similar policy for local personnel and
54 events.
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1 **PURPOSE**

2 Our purpose for establishing this Policy for the Protection of Children, Youth and Developmentally
3 Disabled Adult Dependent Persons is to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment
4 to the physical, sexual and emotional safety of all our children, youth, and developmentally
5 disabled adults, as well as to their spiritual growth. This policy is not intended to supplant or
6 replace the Sexual Ethics Policy for the Church Professionals of the Kansas West Annual
7 Conference of the United Methodist Church or the Sexual Ethics Policy for the Lay Employees
8 and Volunteers of the Kansas West Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, which
9 remain in full force and effect.

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- 11 1. **PHYSICAL ABUSE** – Physical abuse is any deliberate act or omission of an act that inflicts
12 bodily harm to a person. Physical abuse may result from punishment that is overly punitive or
13 inappropriate to the individual’s age or condition.
14
 - 15 2. **SEXUAL ABUSE** – Sexual abuse means physical conduct of a sexual nature, sexual contact,
16 or sexualized behavior, and includes, for example: touching, fondling, sexual intercourse and
17 other exploitation or use of another person for purposes of sexual desires.
18
 - 19 3. **SEXUAL HARASSMENT** – Sexual harassment is any sexual advance or demand, either
20 verbal or physical, that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating or
21 coercive. Sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship
22 rather than as an exclusively sexual issue. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to,
23 the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the
24 basis of gender.
25
 - 26 4. **STAFF PERSON** – Staff person means all persons, volunteer or paid, lay or clergy, (including
27 all church professionals, as defined below), who have any direct or indirect contact with
28 children and/or youth and/or developmentally disabled adult dependent persons who are
29 participating in any activities or events sponsored by the Kansas West Annual Conference of
30 the United Methodist Church and its districts.
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 - 32 5. **CHURCH PROFESSIONAL** – Church Professional means Full, Associate and Probationary
33 ministerial members of the Annual Conference, ordained deacons and elders, diaconal
34 ministers and local pastors, in both the effective and retired relationships, and other persons
35 serving the Conference or any local church under appointment of the Bishop or under the
36 supervision of the District Superintendent, including persons keeping their membership in
37 another annual conference or in another denomination and persons holding orders issued by
38 these annual conferences while on Honorable or Administrative Location.
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40 **IMPLEMENTATION**

41 All staff persons shall be provided a copy of this policy and shall receive training to assist them in
42 the understanding and implementation of this policy, including boundary awareness training,
43 before they are authorized to work with youth, children, or developmentally disabled dependent
44 persons at Conference or District events. The Kansas West Annual Conference will take
45 reasonable steps to screen all prospective staff persons by utilizing background checks with the
46 Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services,
47 and/or other appropriate law enforcement agencies, and by conducting periodic updated
48 background checks not less than once every five years.
49

50 **REPORTING**

51 When an incident of abuse occurs, the protection of children, youth, and adults with
52 developmental disabilities must be paramount. Except when necessary to protect confessional
53 confidences imparted to a church professional, any person having a reasonable basis to suspect
54 that a developmentally disabled person or a child or youth under age 18 has been abused shall
55 promptly report it to the staff person in charge of the event (“event director”) and to the Kansas
56 Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, at **1-800-922-5330**. The event director shall

1 take reasonable steps to protect abused persons and others from further harm, which may
2 include removing the person accused from the site of the event, and/or suspending such person
3 from working with children, youth, or persons with developmental disabilities, pending further
4 investigation.

5
6 **MAKING A COMPLAINT**

7 Persons who have knowledge of a possible violation of this policy by any staff persons, volunteer
8 or paid, lay or clergy may report the same to any church professional, any District Superintendent
9 or the Bishop. Upon any complaint against a church professional, the Conference will take action
10 in accordance with the provisions of the current *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist
11 Church. Upon any complaint against a lay person, the Conference will investigate, consider any
12 response and take action to seek justice.

13
14 **CONCLUSION**

15 In all of our ministries with children, youth and developmentally disabled adult dependent
16 persons, the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church is committed to
17 demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ so that all children, youth and developmentally disabled
18 adult dependent persons will be "surrounded by steadfast love, . . . established in the faith, and
19 confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal" (from "Congregational Pledge 2,"
20 "Baptismal Covenant II," in The United Methodist Hymnal, page 44).

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24 **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REPORT**
25 **Betty J. Hodson, Conference UMW President**

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27 District Reorganization was a challenge to the United Methodist Women in 2005. As reported
28 under the Connectional Ministries umbrella, the use of district steering committees was proved to
29 be most successful. Reorganization from seven to six districts completed pretty much to the time
30 line and officers, pledges, budgets and standing rules were in place on January 1, 2006. Storage
31 of historical data is still in work. United Methodist Women who were in district steering
32 committees are to be commended for this major accomplishment which was done prayerfully,
33 carefully and fairly.

34
35 The year 2006 offers to United Methodist Women many events and opportunities wherein they
36 may live the PURPOSE. Seventy members attended the Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith
37 at Topeka First United Methodist Church on February 14, 2006. All were privileged to hear
38 informative panel discussions; to hear an address by Governor Kathleen Sebelius (introduced by
39 Bishop Scott J. Jones); to meet with their Representatives and Senators; and to attend a
40 workshop of their choosing.

41
42 A conference wide Spiritual Growth Retreat "Resurrection Women" was held at Highland Hotel,
43 Great Bend, Kansas on March 17-18. Planning began in 2005 and we praise the Lord that 174
44 women chose to come and increase their understanding and commitment to God's missions to
45 women, children and youth. In retreat, we nurtured ourselves and each other so that we can be
46 better disciples of Christ and offer our service to God. Two women from the Core Planning
47 Group (South Central Jurisdiction) Bobbie Griffin and Jane Goodspeed led the Retreat and we are
48 grateful for their leadership.

49
50 The 17th Assembly of United Methodist Women will be held May 4-7, 2006 in Anaheim, California
51 and 7,500 plus are expected to attend. To date 32 members from Kansas West Conference will
52 be attending. Many preparations began in 2005. One banner was made to celebrate the theme
53 of the Assembly "Rise! Shine! Glorify God! and another banner was made to celebrate our
54 Kansas West Conference. Some attendees will assist with communion; some will do the Walk-A-