

Canon for Safe Churches
Anglican Diocese of South Carolina
Diocesan Council Report – December 19, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Diocesan Safe Churches program continues to progress and evolve. During the 4th quarter of 2024, I have continued to meet with and train our Rector/Vicars and congregational coordinators on how to comply with our ADOSC Child Protection Policy. Many good questions and discussions have come forth from this training time.

I have been greatly encouraged by the number of questions which have been asked by people who are doing their best to make sure they are in compliance. This includes questions about specific wording of phrases in the manual, but also includes questions about the actual set-up and design of nursery and Sunday School areas in the churches.

One important component of church compliance with the policy is the Rector's annual letter of compliance, certifying that the church is meeting the requirements of the policy. At this time, I am still working with the Rectors/Vicars to get these first letters done. We are getting there!

Finally, I am currently working on three confidential investigations. Although I am obviously not able to share specific information about these cases, please be assured that the work is ongoing, and my diocesan resources (that is, Bishop Edgar, Chancellor Hagood, and Canon Lewis) are providing much helpful assistance!

Wishing you all many Christmas Blessings,

Laura+

The Rev Canon Laura Bowman
Canon for Safe Churches