



Does a person known to be a Registered Sex Offender want to participate in your congregation?

Center the perspective of the survivor and prioritize the well-being of those who have been harmed.

Stage I: Assess	Begin by assessing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congregation's policy for this situation• Congregation's capacity to be community for a Registered Sex Offender• Registered Sex Offender's readiness and motivation to participate• Invite input from survivors in congregation• Consult with MC USA Safe Church and Conference leaders for resources
Stage II: Plan	Determine and communicate a plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If a congregational policy does not exist, adapt policy found at MC USA Safe Church• Form a team who is responsible to carry out the process• Appoint/clarify roles: Who makes which decisions? Who communicates? Who is responsible for enacting the policy?• Communicate plan with all parties, including the congregation and conference• Form a support/accountability group (trained) for the offender
Stage III: Enact	Implement the plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a limited access agreement, signed by a Registered Sex Offender and congregational representative, that includes limits and commitments from offender and congregation, and enforcement mechanisms that are straightforward and appropriate• Allow offender to participate in life of congregation, as agreed to in the limited access agreement.• Begin accountability structures• If offender resists limits, enact agreed upon consequences
Stage IV: Maintain	Exist in new normal of the ongoing relationship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond to changing circumstances• Evaluate the ongoing needs of the congregation and all parties• Seek out and center experiences of survivors of violence. Offer supportive care as this process can be retraumatizing for survivors.
Stage V: Evaluate	Once process ends or new normal is well-established: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss how process went. Notice points of tension, laxness.• Decide what policy changes should be made• Draw on MC USA/Safe Church perspectives• Create a transition plan as new people step into church leadership roles