

## Church Safety Coordinator 2026



I began in the role as Coordinator of Church Safety and Conference Safety Liaison (CSL) on Oct. 15, 2025. I have a Masters of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Doctorate in Ministry from Western Theological Seminary. The title of my doctorate thesis was, "Maternal Inheritance: Interrogating the Divine in Stories of Intergenerational Trauma and Sexual Abuse." I currently live in Charlottesville, Virginia with my husband and two kids.

My responsibilities at Central District Conference include helping churches create or update abuse prevention policies, overseeing Healthy Boundaries training, coordinating the Annual Clergy Review process, providing training on church safety topics to credential leaders and congregations, and investigating pastoral misconduct on denomination-wide response teams.

In my position thus far, I have accomplished the following:

- provided policy guidance to Assembly Mennonite, Atlanta Mennonite, Chapel Hill Mennonite, Columbus Mennonite, Madison Mennonite, Southside Fellowship and Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship.
- created resources for churches to better understand the new "Prevention and Accountability" policy (see attached flyer for a breakdown of policies that help strengthen congregational health)
- completed Church Safety Liaison training through MC USA
- provided support to a church that had to implement their Safe Church policy because of a violation by a congregant
- been a part of a Response Team investigating two misconduct claims within CDC

A resource I have found valuable in my work with congregations is [Steps to Strengthen Congregational Health](#).

*Report submitted by Kristin Sancken, Church Safety Coordinator*