

# Protection Ministry Screening Team

**Purpose:** to support our mission of leading people to a full life in Christ by reducing the risks to the vulnerable people we serve, as well as our volunteers and our ministry as a whole. This team helps to carry out our policies for screening volunteers.

**Responsible to:** Karen Kogler, Director of Equipping

**Job Duties:** Staff and volunteers who serve vulnerable people (children, the frail elderly and those who are developmentally disabled) are required to be screened. Screening includes an application, 6-month church membership/participation rule, interview, reference checks, criminal background check and training. The members of the screening team conduct the interviews and may be asked to help with other steps of the process.



**Time required:** Most interviews take place at our two Protection Screening Nights in the fall for our school parents. Some take place after a weekend worship service. Each interview normally takes 10-15 minutes. Isabel Peterson schedules the weekend interviews at a time convenient to both the interviewer and the interviewee.

**Length of commitment:** two years, with renewals as desired.

**Training provided:** Training takes 1-2 hours and is led by Karen Kogler.

**Qualifications or special skills:** A demonstrated ability to maintain confidentiality is a priority. Making screening information known or available to others is a violation of Illinois law, a Class A misdemeanor. Team members must be able to ask difficult personal questions, to work to put people at ease in an uncomfortable situation, and to discern whether or not someone is suitable for working with vulnerable people. Must sign a confidentiality agreement.

**Benefits to the volunteer:** Our goal is prevention, and we may never know what harm has been prevented. But you will know that your extremely important work helps protect our people and our ministry from potentially horrendous harm.