

The Diocese of Virginia

The Right Reverend Peter James Lee
The Bishop of Virginia

June 2006

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you about a new diocesan policy regarding domestic and world mission trips. One of our diocesan priorities is to "Reach Out to Neighbors in Need." Domestic and world mission trips allow us to offer and communicate the love of God in Christ through hands-on efforts and practical caring, well beyond our diocesan boundaries.

Participants in such mission trips are representatives both of their local congregations and of the Diocese of Virginia. As representatives of the Diocese of Virginia, they must exemplify our commitment to making our churches safe places, so that adults and children can grow in faith.

The Commission on the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct, in coordination with the Commission on World Mission, the Assistant to the Bishop for Outreach and Witness, and the Assistant to the Bishop for Youth, has developed the following policy statement:

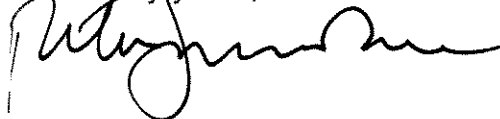
For any diocesan or parish mission trip, whether foreign or domestic, where the primary purpose of the trip is to work with anyone under the age of 18 or where the mission trip team includes anyone under the age of 18, regardless of the purpose of the trip, all adult participants are required to have completed the Workshop on the Prevention of Child Abuse.

At a minimum, the adult leaders of such mission trips are also required to have completed the Workshop on the Prevention of Adult Sexual Misconduct.

Realizing the number of domestic and world mission trips, which will occur during the summer months and for which planning is well underway, this policy will become **effective September 1, 2006**. A statement of compliance with this policy will be required for the use of Youth Mission Vouchers and with applications for any diocesan funding. This policy will also be posted on the diocesan website and included in the next revision of the Policy Manual on Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: Prevention and Response.

The Rev. Jackie Thomson, Chair of the Commission on the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct, and Peggy L. Hombs of my office can provide additional information.

Faithfully yours,



Peter James Lee

+ Strengthen Existing Churches + Reach Out to Neighbors in Need + Expand Youth Ministries + Enhance Conference Centers + Build New Churches



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