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**ACTION REQUEST AR #1**  
**2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**TITLE: Enabling Appropriate Updates to Conference Safe Sanctuaries Policy, Templates, Minimum Standards, and Website**

**SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Oregon-Idaho Safe Sanctuaries Team**

**SPOKESPERSON: Lydia Henry**

**SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 15102 SE Myra Lane, Clackamas, OR 97015**

**SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: lydiahenry626@gmail.com**

**SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-804-7758**

**AMENDED IN YELLOW, ADD IN BOLD, DELETE IN STRIKEOUT**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: Passed 22-2-1**

**I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

To permit the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Safe Sanctuaries Team,

1. under the leadership of the Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator, and
2. in consultation with the Mission and Ministry Coordinator (or person serving in an equivalent office),
3. **to make editing changes** to the Safe Sanctuaries Policy, Templates, Minimum Standards, and Website **without** petitioning Annual Conference to approve new legislation in the following cases:
  - a. any grammatical improvements that do not change the current standards, and
  - b. updates in language reflecting changes in state or federal laws, and
  - c. updates in language reflecting changes in denominational requirements, and
  - d. improvements in Conference policy or materials based upon new and better understanding of abuse prevention or response as indicated by a strong consensus of the professional community working in prevention of sexual abuse, response to sexual abuse, and/or trauma-informed treatment of same.

Further, should this legislation be enacted, the Annual Conference will require Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator to work with the Director of Communications to advise the ministries of the Annual Conference in a timely manner of any and all changes in policy.

Should the Safe Sanctuaries Team seek to institute changes requiring the Annual Conference or local ministries compliant with current minimum standards to incur unbudgeted expenses in excess of \$100, an Action Request filed by the Safe Sanctuaries Team would still be required.

45 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

46

47 **What will this action accomplish?**

48 This legislation allows those who lead the Conference in prevention to keep the material current  
49 and relevant. Common sense changes can be made without resorting to legislative changes  
50 every year or two. Laws and denominational changes can be accommodated without burdening  
51 Annual Conference sessions. Improvements based upon improved knowledge of the issues  
52 can be introduced gradually, rather than having to make full-scale changes in Conference Safe  
53 Sanctuaries.

54

55 **Why is it important?**

56

57 While the Oregon/Idaho Conference has an active and successful record in preparing our  
58 churches in protecting the vulnerable, some changes and improvements are now needed (and  
59 will be necessary in the future). These changes should not require legislative action, as they  
60 are generally minor. Changes to standards proceeding from greater understanding about  
61 prevention, response, and treatment are best recommended and vetted by persons in whom the  
62 Annual Conference invests confidence due to their knowledge of the issues and their  
63 willingness to do the work. This legislation also intentionally limits the Safe Sanctuaries Team in  
64 the types of changes made, underscoring the fact that any wholesale re-writes of policy, etc. will  
65 be brought to the Annual Conference for vote.

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67 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

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69 The Safe Sanctuaries Team in consultation with the person serving as Mission and Ministry  
70 Coordinator, or in an equivalent office.

71

72 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

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74 There is always a cost to any legislation. We value the work of Conference Staff, including the  
75 Conference Secretary and the Director of Communications. There is also the time of the  
76 Mission and Ministry Coordinator. However, the cost of legislating every change in the Safe  
77 Sanctuaries materials is greater. The local ministries are already required to submit their Safe  
78 Sanctuaries materials annually, so there would be no further cost. If the Safe Sanctuaries Team  
79 required significant cost [greater than \$100] through changes they make, they would need to file  
80 legislation.

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