Keeping God’s People Safe

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Anglicans believe that our One God is a Trinity of Persons in loving Communion. Because we know God to be so fundamentally relational, we also come to know that human beings are made for communion.

Antithetical to the idea of being made for communion are the experiences of violation and isolation. Adult sexual harassment and child sexual abuse are acts of violation and isolation, which destroy the experience of communion. The dignity of the human being is not respected, a violation of our baptismal vow. The experience of communion is negated. When harassment and abuse occur, we are not living up to our understanding of who God is.

In 1993, the Diocese of Chicago conducted the first training sessions for “Child Sexual Abuse Prevention” and “Adult Sexual Harassment & Exploitation Prevention”. Today, all church leaders, whether in the Diocese or in the individual parishes, are required to undergo training in an extensive online program called “*Keeping God’s People Safe*”. At St. Simon’s, all Clergy, Vestry members, paid staff, and most volunteers are required to take the online program every five years, with an update every year. Part of the training and requirements is signing a *“Keeping God’s People Safe Covenant for Sexual Integrity”.*

Attached is an abridged version of the Diocese of Chicago’s Sexual Misconduct Prevention manual, *Keeping God’s People Safe*.