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Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal  
December 30, 2025

The Church in the United States is experiencing a crisis without precedent in our times. The abuse people, young and old, and the ways we have addressed these crimes and sins, have caused enormous pain, anger, suffering, and confusion. Innocent victims and their families have suffered terribly. In the past, secrecy has created an atmosphere that has inhibited the healing process and, in some cases, enabled sexually abusive behavior to be repeated. As Elders of The King's Garden Church, we take responsibility for dealing with this problem strongly, consistently, and effectively when called upon to do so.

We, who have been given the responsibility of shepherding God's people, will, with God's help and in full collaboration with our parishioners, continue to restore the bonds of trust that unite us. Words alone cannot accomplish this goal. It will begin with the actions we take here in our Church and at our homes.

**The Promise to Protect**

The Church is the Body of Christ. All members of the Church are linked to one another. We all have a responsibility to ensure the safety of children in our church, schools, families, and local communities.

The King's Garden Church is committed to ensuring the safety of all people both young and old and providing outreach to victims and survivors of abuse.

The King's Garden Church's mission to protect and heal stems from the Gospel: the life and teachings of Jesus Christ provides us with the perfect foundation for our efforts to create safe environments for those abused.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these,"

Here the ways you/we can help keep children/women safe:

- 1) Develop appropriate and loving relationships with people young and old.

- 2) Teach people about safety and healthy boundaries.
- 3) Learn the warning signs of abuse.
- 4) Report abuse to appropriate authorities.

### **Pledge to Heal**

The first obligation of The King's Garden Church with regards to victims is for healing and reconciliation. The King's Garden Church Elders will continue to reach out to every person who has been a victim of abuse as a minor or adult by anyone in authority, whether that abuse is recent or occurred in the past.

If you suffered abuse, it was not your fault. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, there are several things you can do:

- 1) Contact the appropriate law enforcement agency, which can help determine options for making a criminal complaint.
- 2) Contact a local child protection agency, a private attorney, a support group, an abuse hotline, or a mental health professional.
- 3) Contact an Elder of The King's Garden Church who is available to help victims and survivors make a personal meeting with the Pastor, and obtain support for the needs of the individual and family(s).

At The King's Garden Church:

- 1) We train everyone to prevent and report abuse by attending/watching a Safe Environment Education Session.
- 2) Sign a Code of Ethical Standards guideline.
- 3) We provide outreach to those abused.
- 4) We require background checks.
- 5) We report all allegations.
- 6) We work with law enforcement.

Your local Victims Assistance Coordinator is available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone in authority. We will listen to your needs and support you. We will help you make a formal complaint and arrange a meeting with the Pastor, or an Elder, if desired. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE LINE:

THE OFFICE OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION:

# The King's Garden Church's Code of Ethical Standards

As an individual who works with both young and old, I commit myself to furthering the values of biblical teachings of childhood education both young and old as they are reflected in the ideals and principles of The King's Garden Church's Code of Ethical Conduct. To the best of my ability I will

- Never harm children.
- Ensure that programs for young children are based on current knowledge and research of child development and Biblical teachings.
- Respect and support families in their task of nurturing children.
- Respect others in their care and education and support them in maintaining The King's Garden Church's Code of Ethical Conduct.
- Serve as an advocate for children, their families, and their teachers in the church community and society in general.
- Stay informed of and maintain high standards of Biblical conduct.
- Engage in an ongoing process of self-reflection, realizing that personal characteristics, biases, and beliefs have an impact on children and families.
- Be open to new ideas and be willing to learn from the suggestions of others.
- Continue to learn, grow, and contribute as a leader in The King's Garden Church.
- Honor the ideals and principles of The King's Garden Church's Code of Ethical Conduct.

This statement of Commitment is not part of the Code but is a personal acknowledgement of the individual's willingness to embrace the distinctive values and moral obligations of The King's Garden Church care and education. It is recognition of the moral obligations that lead to an individual becoming part of the leadership team at The King's Garden Church.

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Signature

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Date