***Policy for Registered Sex Offenders Attending (Name of your church)***

Dr. David Gibbs recommends that every church have a policy regarding sex offenders, who may attend their church. This is s sample that he allowed us to present to you. Reformers Unanimous is simply passing this information along, and by no means are we insisting that you implement this. We are often questioned on this issue, and we defer to Dr. Gibbs for the response.

-The purpose of the Registered Sex Offender Policy is to allow **(Name of your church)** to minister more effectively to the offender, while also protecting the church and its membership from any unnecessary personal risk. In *Hebrews 3:13*, God tells us, “But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." The goal of (Name of your church) is to see lives changed through the power of God and individuals committed to serving Him in every aspect of their daily lives.

-Once it has been identified that a registered sex offender is attending (Name of your church), the Senior/Associate Pastor will meet with the offender to gain further background information.

-A criminal background/records check will be obtained from the local authorities to verify charges and details of the individual’s offense(s).

-The (Name of your church) Pastoral Staff, Reformers Unanimous (RU) Director/RU Assistant Director, and Deacons will immediately be made aware of the situation. They will review the specifics of the offender’s case and provide recommendations to the senior/associate pastor.

-The (Name of your Church) Student Ministries’ Pastor and Children’s Pastor will immediately be made aware of any known child sex offender in attendance at (Name of your Church).

-The offender will be required to attend the (Name of your church) RU ministry for extensive and long term discipleship.

-(Name of your church) will train and assign by letter same sex sponsors/chaperones who will coordinate with and monitor the offender during all periods they are in attendance at the church or off-site church-sponsored activities.

-At no time will the offender be unsupervised while on church property or off-site church-sponsored activities. The offender must stay with the chaperone, not the other way around.

-The (Name of your church) Pastoral Staff/RU Director/RU Assistant Director will periodically visit the offender at their place of residence to ensure their lifestyle is commensurate with Biblical principles.

-At no time will the individual have intentional contact with children of any age or gender (a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18).

-The (Name of your church) Pastoral Staff/RU Director/RU Assistant Director will contact the offender’s parole/probation officer and discuss the offender’s situation; in addition, open lines of communication will be established with the offender’s parole/probation officer. (Name of your church) will document the church’s agreement to minister to the offender in a letter to the offender’s parole/probation officer.

-The offender will not normally be granted membership status at (Name of your church) unless specific situations allow. If membership is granted, it will be considered “restricted” and must meet the approval of the pastoral staff and the deacons. (“Restricted” membership means that the offender is unable to hold any church office and not permitted to work with the (Name of your church) Children or Youth Ministries).

-The identity of an individual sex offender attending (Name of your church) will not normally be made known to the congregation, unless specific situations dictate.

-The (Name of your church) RU Director/RU Assistant Director and/or offender’s sponsor/chaperone will immediately notify the senior/associate pastor of any concerns or violations of policy regarding the offender.

-The (Name of your church) Pastoral Staff will maintain reasonable contact with the Christian Law Association (CLA) for any additional updates to the current law or for concerns to existing church policy.

-The offender will be briefed by the senior/associate pastor on the existing (Name of your church) registered sex offender policy, and sign the policy thereby agreeing to its boundaries.

-Any violation of this policy on behalf of the offender will result in an immediate termination of this agreement, and will prohibit the offender from further access to the church property and/or attendance at any off-site church-sponsored activities.

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 Senior/Associate Pastor

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 RU Director/Associate Director

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 Offender

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 Date

Rsb//13 Nov 08