

Update from the Illinois Indiana staff

Jul 5

Subject: An update from the Illinois/Indiana staff

Dear Friends,

We think of you with appreciation and concern in these current times, and we hope you are doing okay.

We would like to update you on our activities and communicate our efforts to address Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) as well as adult Sexual Abuse (SA).

Last week, the IL IN staff convened in Indiana for portions of three days. We talked about our responsibilities as mandated reporters, and some of the steps required to report abuse. We talked about appropriate conduct for workers, which for the most part, applies to our friends also. We also discussed policy that is being developed to help us know how to respond to allegations and convictions of CSA and SA. The motivation of the policy is to provide a safe environment for children first of all. We are working on making resources available for victims. And the policy addresses people's concerns about if when an abuser would be reintegrated into a meeting and funeral. In this decision, strong consideration is being given to having a CSA professional outside of our fellowship do an evaluation. Some professionals and several other people are working on this policy. We hope it can be shared before long. We appreciate your patience, as we try to create appropriate policy.

Two churches gathered in the Evansville, IN, area on Monday evening, July 3, to give people an opportunity to express feelings and concerns, and to ask questions about the serious problems confronting us these days. Sharon Carrol, Gloria Edwards, Loren Quick and Matthew Jensen were present. Two of these gatherings are planned in the Indianapolis area next week

We want to know how this experience affects our friends. If anyone has any questions or concerns, and you feel like the workers can be of help in a personal visit, feel free to reach out to us. If anyone is interested in attending similar gatherings as mentioned above, please reach out to the workers in your field.

Take care.

Sincerely,

The IL IN Staff