

Genesee Valley Toolbox for Session Sexual Misconduct Policies

Presbytery of Genesee Valley #14 in a series (2021, October)

This issue features: Resources from Presbytery's
new insurance carrier.

Genesee Valley Toolbox is a continuing, occasional series of support for Sessions in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley as we develop, adopt, implement, and update our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-mandated policies regarding sexual misconduct and child and youth protection, and our New York State-mandated workplace sexual harassment prevention policies. This series offers practical information, recommends best practices, and identifies reliable sources on numerous topics. The intent is to deepen our knowledge, encourage our right behaviors, and achieve important outcomes for the people we serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

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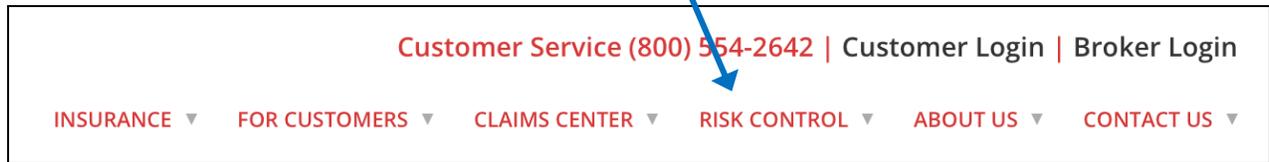
*Church Mutual offers a host of useful, on-line
resources for protecting people in our
congregations' missions and ministries.
See the following page.*

The docket for the Presbytery's Stated Meeting of 10/23/21 reported: "The PGV Board of Trustees has approved a new insurance carrier for property and liability for the Presbytery – Church Mutual Insurance Company – effective September 1, 2021... " (p. 7).

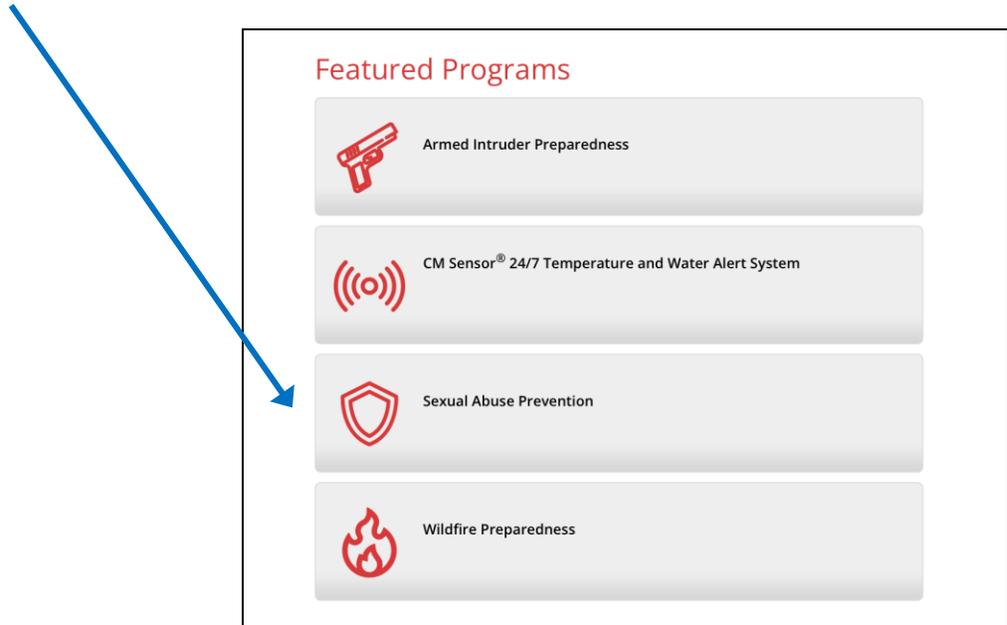
Founded in 1897, Church Mutual is a national company based in Wisconsin. Its announced mission is to serve purpose-driven organizations.

The *Toolbox* series is posted on the PGV website in the Committee on Ministry section: <https://pbygenval.org/committees/committee-on-ministry/sexual-misconduct-policies-resources/genesee-valley-toolbox/> Pass this link to your Session, your pastors and ministers, your church's leaders, and those who work with children and youth.

1. Start at Church Mutual’s home page: <https://www.churchmutual.com> [Accessed 10/18/21.] In the upper right, select **RISK CONTROL**. It is a link.



2. That link opens to a page entitled, **Safety Resources**, which is organized topically. Select **Sexual Abuse Prevention**. It is a link.



3. That link opens to a page of topics with links to: educational materials and practical advice, e.g., awareness of an offender’s grooming process, and policies and procedures, including background checks, screening, and training.

[A note on the **Sources** on the **Sexual Abuse Prevention** page: Source 1 is by Anna Salter, a national expert who has worked with people incarcerated for sexual abuse of children. Her book includes interviews with people who sexually abused minors in the context of churches. Sources 2-5 are evidence-based articles published in peer-reviewed, academic journals. Source 6 is by a nationally prominent researcher.]

“Each council shall obtain property and liability insurance coverage to protect its facilities, programs, staff, and elected and appointed officers.” *Book of Order*, G-3.0112 (2019-21 edition)

Rendering unto Caesar? Yes; it’s a fiduciary duty as trustees of a church as a religious corporation under New York State law! Wise stewardship? Indeed! Prudent risk management? Absolutely.