

## **Policy Requiring Vaccinations for Children Participating in SNEUCC Camping Programs**

As recommended by the American Academy for Pediatrics, the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ requires that all children participating in its camping and other programs be vaccinated in accordance with State law.

We recognize an exception to this requirement for any child whose physician certifies to us in writing that the child has a medical condition which would make vaccination unduly risky for the child.

The Southern New England Conference does not allow exemptions to vaccination requirements based on religious beliefs. As a church, we understand that religious beliefs are compelling and important. However, our own understanding of the teachings of Jesus requires us to place priority on protecting people who are particularly vulnerable.

In order to protect all the children in our care, and especially any who may be immune-compromised, we must regretfully decline to serve children whose parents claim religious exemption from vaccination requirements.