

Responding to Clergy Misconduct: Instituting Best Practices
Online – February 3, 4, 5, 10, 11

TRAINERS

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

When prevention fails and a faith leader violates the boundaries of a pastoral or teaching relationship as well as betrays the trust of a congregation, a judicatory or organization must be prepared to respond. When a complaint of misconduct comes forward, the complainant, the faith leader, and the congregation or organization where the violation occurred all are in need of response and action. The complaint needs to be investigated and adjudicated but the congregation or organization also needs support to deal with its confusion, grief, and anger in order to move towards healing and restoration.

Having a policy and procedure in place to respond to the complaint itself is paramount but the response to the congregation or organization is equally important. This Leadership Workshop will address both aspects of response focusing on intervention as well as addressing the needs of the congregation and the role of an “after-pastor.”

Learning Objectives:

- Prepare judicatory leaders to respond to misconduct by clergy and spiritual leaders.
- Expand the theological and ethical foundations for an appropriate response to clergy misconduct.
- Review the importance of an awareness of power and vulnerability within pastoral/teaching relationships.
- Look critically at policy and procedure issues including investigation and adjudication.
- Address legal concerns.
- Address communication concerns post-disclosure of abuse.
- Prepare Response Teams to address concerns of their congregation.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Judicatory leaders (clergy and lay) with responsibilities to respond to disclosures of faith leader misconduct
- Response Teams with responsibilities to respond to disclosures of faith leader misconduct

COURSE STRUCTURE

- Session I: A Common Framework
- Session II: It’s All About Power
- Session III: Healing the Congregation (How to Face a Disclosure of Misconduct; What is the Role of the “After-Pastor”?)

TRAINING FEE INCLUDES

- Five half-day online training sessions on Canvas and BigBlueButton (9:00 AM-12:00 PM CST)
- *Responding to Clergy Misconduct Handbook*
- Additional training handouts and materials

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

- \$549 Early Registration through January 15.
- \$600 Regular Registration through January 31.
- ***Call for group rates (four or more participants)*

QUESTIONS

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ABOUT FAITHTRUST INSTITUTE

For more than 40 years, FaithTrust Institute has been at the forefront of the movement to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and misconduct within religious organizations. We are the only multi-faith organization offering training, resources, and consultation to spiritual communities addressing violence and abuse.

For decades, FaithTrust Institute has acted as a trusted, impartial expert for spiritual communities as they respond to reports of misconduct and abuse by clergy members, religious leaders, or spiritual teachers. Our expertise includes:

- Creating groundbreaking education curriculum and training to prevent misconduct
- Policy development and implementation at the national and local level, with organizations from many spiritual traditions
- Consultation with hundreds of spiritual communities as they work to investigate and adjudicate reports of misconduct
- Expert advice and coaching for boards and ethics committees as they proceed through the complaint process
- Advising the community through the healing process, during and after the complaint has been adjudicated

In 1997, FaithTrust Institute published *Responding to Clergy Misconduct: A Handbook*, based upon extensive research and trainings. This practical guide was created for religious communities as they investigate and adjudicate allegations of clergy abuse and is used by denominations across North America as the foundation for their institutional response to misconduct.