

# **Boundary Training**

## **Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ**

A required workshop assisting ordained clergy in creating, establishing, and maintaining professional boundaries in their ministry setting.

### **What is boundary training?**

Boundary Training is an 8 hour workshop designed to engage clergy in critical thinking around topics including personal relationships, gifts, leadership in the church, intimacy, touch, counseling, stress management, self care, and power.

It is not designed to provide right and wrong answers. It is designed to help each individual engage in critical thought around assessing and evaluating the situations we often encounter as clergy.

### **Why is boundary training required?**

The conference recognizes the importance of ongoing development regarding self reflective skills to engage the ever changing nature of boundaries within our church, community, and personal lives.

Secondly, to maintain conference insurance policies, preventative measures against clergy misconduct are required.

### **Are other Associations /Conferences/ Denominations also requiring this?**

Yes, it is mandated by almost every mainline denomination across the nation.

### **What am I going to be expected to do if I show up?**

Participate. By no means is this a lecture format where the facilitator has all the answers. Your input and expertise is highly valued and important for broadening the scope of the conversation.

### **Is there a curriculum?**

Yes, the curriculum is called "A Sacred Trust," and includes 4 video tapes that cover a broad base of topics designed especially for ordained clergy. Along with the tapes are opportunities for self reflection and open sharing.

### **Who are the trainers/leaders?**

Trained facilitators lead the sessions. Each has unique perspective and significant experience with clergy and group facilitation.

### **How does this benefit me?**

Through developing self-reflective skills this better enables one to successfully navigate the challenging boundary issues often faced in ministry.

### **Is this a response to sexual impropriety within the church?**

Yes and No – while there has been enough significant sexual misconduct to warrant serious contemplation of sexual boundaries, by no means does it end there. There are many important topics addressed in the workshop. Most importantly the workshop addresses environments that are conducive to inappropriate boundary crossing, as well as environments that help promote healthy relationships.

### **How often is this required?**

Boundary training is required every 3 years. The conference office has records of when each clergy person has last attended.

### **What happens if I choose not to attend the training?**

Choosing to ignore boundary training will result in loss of standing in your association and the UCC. This is due to the liability factors involved with authorizing a clergy person to operate without having engaged this important material.

### **When are boundary trainings held?**

Boundary Training is offered 2-3 times a year in each association and often at 1-2 Conference gatherings a year. The 8 hour workshop can be held all in one day or divided up over a number of sessions.

### **Can I attend a boundary training event being held in a different association within the MMSC?**

Yes, feel free to attend the event that best matches your schedule.

### **Is lunch provided?**

No, you are expected to either bring or buy your own lunch given a full day event. However, refreshment is generally provided.

### **How do I find out about the boundary training sessions?**

Event times and locations will be posted in the Courier, on the conference web site, and sent out through E-Connections. However, you must fill out a registration prior to attending, and include the \$20 registration fee. Registration forms are found on the conference web site.

<http://www.mmsucc.org/issouri>  
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