



PRC - Practical Resources for Churches

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The Book of Order now requires Boundary Training for members of church sessions at least every three years. More important than the requirement, however, is that Boundary Training provides an opportunity for meaningful conversations within sessions about how churches can create safe, welcoming, and transparent communities.

The PRC has created a series of free and short (no more than 15 minutes) video modules on a variety of topics that, together, fulfill a session's Boundary Training requirement and open the door to discussion (see links and suggested questions below).

When you click the link zoom will ask you to fill in your information.

Here are some ways that you can use these resources:

1. *Build 20 minutes of discussion time into the next several (or every other) session meetings. After you open with prayer, watch one of the short recordings together, followed by 5-10 minutes of discussion using the questions provided for each video, until you've watched and discussed each video throughout the coming year.*
2. *Assign your elders to watch a particular video in advance of each session meeting, and focus your time at the meeting on the discussion questions.*
3. *Incorporate some of the videos into an annual session retreat or elder training.*
4. *Let your congregation know that your session is engaging in this training together--it builds trust and invites broader conversations in the congregation.*
5. *Ask your elders to complete the PRC's NYS Sexual Harassment Prevention Training, which is offered as live webinars throughout the year (see upcoming dates below). All church staff are required to take this training annually (and the session should be sure to keep records of their compliance); your session provides important leadership and gains meaningful awareness by participating along with the staff.*

If there are other topics you would like PRC to offer email Charlaine@prcli.org

Church Leadership Training – Shared Shepherd

Leader – Kerri Hefner

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KOUTRIkQ2SDIj8v5B7b6A#/registration

When you click the link zoom will ask you to fill in your information.

Pastors are not the only shepherds in your congregation. Church leaders play a vital role in creating a culture of healthy boundaries and a culture free from sexual harassment, misconduct, or abuse within their congregations.

Discussion Questions:

1. How is your leadership team (board/session) earning the trust of your community?
2. What are some areas where you could use more clarification on behavior expectations and duties? (ushers, event planning teams, volunteers serving mission projects, etc.)
3. Are there particular volunteers, roles, or ministry teams where leaders are overworked and overwhelmed? How can you help?
4. Consider doing a power and comfort audit of your congregation/building. You may split into teams and walk different areas of your church, considering both the physical aspects of the building but also programs that happen in those spaces.

Leaders

Rev. Dr. Kerri Hefner is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She has served congregations and campus ministry in North Carolina.

Elizabeth Christie is a consultant with PRC and has been working as a professional in the field of children and family ministry for over 25 years.

Church Leadership Training - Crafting a Leadership Covenant

Leader – Kerri Hefner

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Sk_amE0LRp-OHJZrtH7mlA#/registration

When you click the link zoom will ask you to fill in your information.

In this video, we will explore the biblical basis for covenant and consider how a crafting a covenant within your leadership team can strengthen your ministry.

Discussion Questions:

1. The presentation mentioned the covenant made in the book of Genesis, continuing into Exodus. Can you think of other Biblical examples of a covenant or an agreement? What stands out to you from those examples
2. What are some unwritten rules in your congregation? One congregation had an unwritten understanding that ten percent of the church budget would go to mission. A leadership covenant in that congregation might have put that understanding into writing. Are there unwritten rules that you would not want written down, and if so, examine whether those unwritten rules need to change.
3. Would you say your congregation has a positive "theme?" For example, your building may be known in the community as a place for groups and activities. Or you may be a bunch of do-it-yourself types who take good care of the property. If you have a theme, it's probably important, so consider including that in your covenant.
4. A final note: if you choose phrases for your covenant that are more broadly or vaguely worded, such as "We promise to communicate with one another," you will want to periodically evaluate how you are living up to those less specific promises.

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Church Leadership Training – Healthy Communication for Leaders

Leader – Kerri Hefner

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gVElqnHOQmKOAQCfWedLrg#/registration

When you click the link zoom will ask you to fill in your information.

In this video, we will explore the issue of triangulation, why it happens, and what we can do about it.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you had an experience of feeling supported? What specific actions did the person supporting you take? What words did that person use?
2. Are there some upsides to uncertainty? How does your church deal with uncertainty?
3. What specific actions can you take to help with a current uncertain or worrisome situation at your church? Some options: pray about it, talk about with someone over coffee, volunteer your time, just to name a few.

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Church Leadership Training - Pastoral Boundaries

Leader – Kerri Hefner

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_plWmzrP7T6iLb-L_Po9WfA#/registration

When you click the link zoom will ask you to fill in your information.

Learn more about boundaries your pastor may keep to support healthy ministry within the congregation both during and after their tenure.

Discussion Questions:

1. Does your congregation have a beloved former pastor? How have you chosen to remember this person?
2. The presentation mentioned boundaries regarding communication. In what ways does your congregation communicate with members and friends? What rules regarding communication would be helpful to your congregation? Possible examples: church secretary is copied on all emails to parents & youth, so the secretary can be apprised of the calendar of events. Or, the prayer list is only distributed to active church members.
3. Imagine you wanted to meet with your pastor for support with a confidential problem. What would help you feel more comfortable in this conversation: not being alone in the church at night? Meeting somewhere away from the church office where staff and volunteers tend to gather? Meeting with the pastor and a good friend for coffee at your home? There are many ways to help church members feel safe while sharing very personal information.

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Church Leadership Training: Protecting Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults

Leader – Elizabeth Christie

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jalu2yAFRL6x3uSYDTd77A#/registration

When you click the link zoom will ask you to fill in your information.

Learn the basics of why and how to create safe spaces for the most vulnerable in your congregation as well as the volunteers and staff who care for them.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have a policy and is it being followed?
2. What spaces (physical or digital) in your church are a potential risk and need special consideration?
3. What church programs (in person or online) need to be addressed by your policy?

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