



## 3 Day *SafeChurch* Facilitator Training

### What is Samaritan *SafeChurch*?

Developed by Samaritan Counseling Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and initially funded by the Ms. Foundation for Women in 2011, *SafeChurch* is part of a groundbreaking effort to end child sexual abuse across the United States by building an inclusive, strategic and sustainable movement encompassing diverse secular and faith-based organizations. It is based on a social movement building platform, and calls on people of faith to take action to change the social, cultural and religious context in which one in four girls, and one in six boys, are sexually abused before age 18. It is a participant with other movement makers in the [Just Beginnings Collaborative](#).

*SafeChurch* is a dynamic and interactive process designed to take a group of up to 10 congregations through a one year process for protection of children and youth from sexual, and other forms, of abuse. The goal is to shift congregational culture to one in which adults are equipped and inspired to be proactive in preventing child sexual abuse—not only in the church, but in the broader community; and, to develop the institutional infrastructure via best practice policies, training, and other elements to sustain the cultural shift when the one year process is completed.

### What is the Facilitator Training?

The facilitator training incorporates our learning from a two year national pilot program in which more than 100 facilitators were trained in several states. It is a 20 hour, 3-day training for ordained and lay leaders from a broad spectrum of theological traditions to equip them to facilitate a *SafeChurch* process in their own congregations, or in a “Cluster” of several churches working together.

**Occasionally, a training is held in Lancaster PA but typically, Samaritan staff travel to other communities to provide facilitator training to advance our mission of building a national faith-based movement to end child sexual abuse.**

### What will Participants completing the training learn to do?

- Facilitate a one-year *SafeChurch* process in a congregation or a group of congregations.
- Utilize an interactive policy template, along with other material provided in the training, to develop a comprehensive child & youth protection policy, or to revise an existing policy with best practices.
- Write a theological framework grounded in their own tradition articulating why protecting children from sexual abuse is a core part of their mission and identity.
- Discuss the prevalence and impacts of child sexual abuse, including the primary spiritual wounds common in victims and the influence on one’s understanding of God.

- Differentiate the 5 phases of the “grooming” process offenders use to engage children.
- Discuss how to use the power of story to effect social change in faith communities by drawing on Biblical themes and the prophetic tradition.
- Explain how congregations can safely incorporate known sexual offenders.
- Describe how the story of the rape of Tamar (2 Samuel 13) can be used to empower adult survivors to find their voices and challenge churches to hear them.

**The material includes PA mandated reporting laws as of January 2017. Participants from other states must find out what their reporting laws are, and modify the policy and training material.**

### **What does it cost?**

**We are committed to building a social movement** and charge low training and material fees of \$125 per person. Depending on the organization and their demonstrated commitment to ending child sexual abuse, fees may be lowered or at times, waived (see below) as we **seek funding to support bringing SafeChurch to a community** that has leaders at a high stage of “readiness” to take it on.

### **How can I bring SafeChurch to my community or judicatory?**

Trainings are sponsored by host organizations in a community, such as counseling centers, entities working to end sexual violence, judicatories or regional associations, large multi-site churches, or parish resource centers.

### **Fees are waived for host organizations that agree to become a “hub” for Safe Church.**

Hosts that makes a commitment to be a “hub” for SafeChurch and run Clusters in their region agree to embed the program within their organization and provide administrative infrastructure to support it. This would include tasks such as promoting the program to local churches, website postings, organizing the newly trained volunteer and staff facilitators to run Clusters, and modifying program material for mandated reporting laws in states other than PA. **Minimum # of participants for the training is ten, and more than 20 requires approval and may result in additional cost if a 2<sup>nd</sup> facilitator is needed.**

**Hosts willing to meet benchmark criteria that results in running their first Cluster of 5-10 congregations within one year of the training may be eligible for up to \$5,000 in “seed money” over the 12 month post-training period as benchmarks are met.**

### **Who can enroll?**

The Host has the responsibility of inviting participants that want to learn how to facilitate SafeChurch in their community, or their own congregation. Generally, the group is a mix of staff from the Host, plus lay and ordained leaders from churches in the community. The Host may also elect to invite participants from other non-local organizations with which they are affiliated or connected, allowing each organization to serve as a “hub” in their region.

It is recommended that participants be active in congregations or have relationships with faith communities/leaders they can invite to participate in *SafeChurch* after their training. A level of fluency with theological language and understanding of congregational system dynamics is helpful.

**Caution!** This is a content intense training focused heavily on child sexual abuse. Participants who are highly sensitive or easily triggered, should exercise discernment prior to enrollment. There is

a minimal amount of time to emotionally process the material during the training. We include this caution on our enrollment forms, and ask that anyone considering enrollment assess their capacity for a 3 day immersion in this topic.

### **What material is provided with the training?**

**A Flash drive with SafeChurch material including: 6 power point presentations for SafeChurch core team training and policy development; the policy template and appendix forms; agendas for each team meeting; two power point presentations for adult education in churches; 1 power point for use in training staff and volunteers when policies are completed; survivor retreat power point and format; administrative material for project management and facilitator supplemental material.**

- **Computers required!**

Participants will access material during the training directly from the flash drives provided, not hard copies, and should bring a notebook/laptop capable of reading/editing Word documents and power points to the training.

**SafeChurch Movement Building to End Child Sexual Abuse – A DVD produced by Samaritan in 2015** which includes a 17 minute film of adult survivors, allies, and parents of sexually abused children from congregations sharing their stories, two 20 minute videos of pastoral conversations about how to respond to suspected child sexual abuse to use in training staff and volunteers; and a downloadable power point for training staff and volunteers working with children in church settings that includes PA mandated reporting laws as of July 2015.

**Circle of Grace – a Christian Safe Environment** curriculum for Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade on a CD produced by the [Archdiocese of Omaha](#).

### **How can I get started?**

For organizations or judicatories interested in hosting a training, contact [LCrockett@scclanc.org](mailto:LCrockett@scclanc.org) for an application.

For individuals that want to be notified when the next Lancaster PA based training will be held, contact [DRenfro@scclanc.org](mailto:DRenfro@scclanc.org).

**Visit our Blog at <http://scclanc.org/blog-safechurch>**

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