

SW MN Synod Awareness of Boundaries

Sexual misconduct by pastors, associates in ministry, and other religious leaders is one of the most serious challenges faced by the church today. Violation of the sacred trust between church members and their leaders brings deep pain to all who are affected: victims, offenders, family members, friends, and the congregation itself.

In response to this challenge, the Southwestern Minnesota Synod constitution and bylaws include the following provision (Bylaw §14.21.01):

"Within twelve months of assuming office, all ordained ministers under call and rostered lay ministers responsible for programmatic ministry shall demonstrate completion of at least six contact hours of continuing education in the prevention of sexual boundary violations."

There are three ways ordained or lay ministers of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod can demonstrate compliance with the provisions of Bylaw §14.21.01:

- 1.) They can apply for and receive an "equivalency" for this requirement, based on workshops they have attended or other training they have received prior to beginning their service within the synod.
- 2.) They can attend a training event offered annually by the synod.
- 3.) They can attend another training event or workshop that includes at least six contact hours of instruction in the same content covered by the synod's annual training event.

Upcoming Boundaries Training Events –

Northeastern Minnesota Synod Boundaries Workshop

August 18 at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa, MN

10a.m. - 2:30p.m. (9:30 registration)

Presenter: Pastor Karen Bockelman

Cost: \$20/person

Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boundaries-workshop-registration-17392731127>

Minneapolis Area Synod Boundaries Workshop

October 29 at House of Hope, New Hope, MN

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Presenter: Susan Miller

Cost: \$25/person

Register online at <http://www.mpls-synod.org/boundary-workshops>

Southwestern Minnesota Synod Boundaries Workshop

November 5 at Faith Lutheran church, Spicer, MN

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cost: \$40/person

Presenter: Aaron Suomala-Folkerds, Karen Bockelman, and Rick Loseth

Registration coming soon.