

# Life During COVID-19

Like everyone else, FaithTrust Institute has been impacted by the changes brought by Coronavirus. When we held our biannual Teaching Healthy Boundaries training in Chicago in early March, we had no idea it would be our last in-person training of the year!

Over the past several months, we've had to completely rethink how we provide education programs, and how we provide resources for those who are using our curriculum to train other on healthy boundaries and clergy ethics. Several years ago, we began adding streaming video and e-books to our educational offerings. This investment now seems prescient, with the almost universal move to online education.

We remain grateful for the people who bring such dedication, heart, and insight to this work, and for the continued safety and health of our staff and trainers.



## TWO AREAS OF OUR EXPANDING WORK:

### 1 HEALTHY BOUNDARIES: PREVENTION EDUCATION

Because our Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201 curriculum is the cornerstone of many organizational and denominational training programs, we've been working to make the training materials more accessible for the transition to online education. To that end:

- The Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201 workbooks are now available as e-books through Amazon and Kobo.
- Our Healthy Boundaries training videos, including A Sacred Trust, Not in My Church/Not in My Congregation, and Once You Cross the Line, are now available as streaming video to allow for on-line education for seminaries and denominations.

We've just offered our first live, online Teaching Healthy Boundaries training, which is an adaptation of our in-person 2-day workshop for trainers. It was a great opportunity to bring people together from across the country to focus on fostering ethical leadership. We continue to develop additional modules for the Healthy Boundaries curriculum, including Sexual Harassment in the Spiritual Community.

Thanks to a grant from Hemera Foundation, we're able to offer scholarships to Buddhist teachers who need financial assistance to participate in our online Buddhist Healthy Boundaries courses.

### 2 RESPONDING TO CLERGY MISCONDUCT / ABUSE

As consultants, we work intensely with organizations as they proceed through misconduct investigations. We offer guidance and expertise, and we witness how this necessary process challenges and traumatizes spiritual communities.

We are currently refreshing our Responding to Clergy Misconduct training, which prepares religious organizations to develop and implement best-practice policies and procedures in their communities. The new course will be a live, online course over several days. We plan to offer the course in the first quarter of 2021. Please email [Learning@FaithTrustInstitute.org](mailto:Learning@FaithTrustInstitute.org) if you'd like us to notify you when we have the dates.

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN (VIRTUALLY) THIS YEAR

### US NAVY CHAPLAINS CORPS

Our contract to coordinate trainings for the US Navy Chaplains Corps was upended when COVID-19 locked down military bases and made travel impossible. Over the last eight months, we've had the opportunity to reconfigure the trainings for online delivery. Thanks to the ingenuity of the US Navy, by August, 2021, we will have trained over 1,000 US Navy Chaplains and their support personnel across the globe.

### MISCONDUCT CONSULTATIONS

While in-person trainings have been cancelled since early spring, we've had the opportunity to engage with some amazing individuals and organizations who are working to create safe spiritual communities through training, education, policy development and review, and unbiased investigations into allegations of misconduct. In 2020, we've worked with multiple Christian and Buddhist organizations.

**TAKE ACTION  
TODAY!**

Please donate to  
FaithTrust Institute  
to sustain our  
important work.  
We need you!

whyfaithmatters  
Responding to sexual violence and abuse  
A handbook for advocates and allies

## WHY FAITH MATTERS

Thanks to a grant from RALIANCE Foundation, we were able to research and publish *Why Faith Matters: Responding to Sexual Violence and Abuse*. In the year since its release, it's been downloaded by advocates from across the country and has been included in the curriculum of at least one seminary course on gender-based violence.

"[Why Faith Matters] is profound. Simply profound. The scope is so comprehensive without being overwhelming. Its beauty and simplicity encourages me to linger and and learn and reflect... A wonderful contribution on a topic which is not addressed to the degree it deserves, or to a degree of competency which is necessary." -Rev. James Evinger

You can now access *Faith and Intimate Partner Violence: An Advocacy Handbook* on our website. We wrote this in collaboration with Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and since the dissolution of FCADV, this valuable resource had been unavailable. We're happy to give it a home and make it available for advocates and allies for free.

## ABOUT FAITHTRUST INSTITUTE

For more than 40 years, FaithTrust Institute has helped congregations of all spiritual traditions address the religious and cultural aspects of interpersonal and intimate violence. We have developed acclaimed prevention curriculums and trainings that are used across North America, in diverse religious and spiritual communities and seminaries.

Since 1983, we have been at the forefront of addressing the crisis of clergy misconduct and abuse. Through training, resources, and consultation, we help communities respond to leadership misconduct in its myriad forms. Survivor-centered, and trauma-informed, we help spiritual communities live into the tenets of their faith by working for safety, accountability, and justice.

