**Classis Huron Safe Church Committee Report, February 15, 2022**

**Mandate:** Classis Huron Safe Church Committee is mandated:

1. **Advisory Panel:** To function as an Abuse Response Team according to Synodical Guidelines (as annotated for Classis Huron).
2. **Education:** To provide comprehensive and on-going education, training and resources to our churches in the prevention of and response to abuse.
3. **Support:** To provide support services**\*** to our churches, a victim of abuse, an offender of abuse and/or their family members.

**\***Support services may include: resources and suggested written material, phone calls, visits, accompanying persons to civil or criminal legal proceedings, making referrals for treatment/counselling, being a prayer partner

**Classis Huron Safe Church Update:**

A draft “Classis Huron Safe Church policy” as required by our insurance provider, was presented to the CMC and AdCom for their perusal. The policywill be presented to the Classis for their final approval in the near future. This policy provides guidance and direction to all those staff/volunteers working on behalf of Classis Huron but who are not covered under their local church’s policy.

**Membership Update:**

Those churches who do not currently have a representative on the Safe Church Committee are encouraged to appoint an interested volunteer.

Representatives have a key role in contributing to the ongoing issues and events, ensuring that all churches in Classis Huron have a voice and are kept informed.

**Annual Inter-Classis Safe Church Conference**
The Annual Inter-Classis Safe Church Conference will be back **in person** this year! Join us on Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm at the Waterloo CRC.

Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen, Ministry Team Leader Safe Church, will present on “The Use and Misuse of Power in the Church“, Christian Horizons Education Director Steve Snider ‘s presentation will focus on supporting a person living with a disability. Carol Penner will present on “Repentance and Accountability: Forgiveness is not the first step.” And much more.
For more information and registration <https://www.wmott.ca/scc>

**Updates from the office of Safe Church Ministries**

**Two-Day Becoming a Restorative Congregation & Circle Facilitator Training**

On March 24th-25th (a Friday/Saturday), Safe Church of Congregational Ministries will offer a two-day training in Restorative Practices for Faith Communities at the CRCNA offices **(3475 Mainway) in Burlington, Ontario**. This training will introduce participants to FaithCARE’s framework and vision for restorative congregations: participants will learn how to design and facilitate proactive listening circles for a variety of topics and occasions. You'll also learn how to incorporate restorative practices to enrich interpersonal relationships, small groups, teams, congregational life, and many other contexts.

View Here <https://crcna.regfox.com/restorative-practice-framework-circles-for-faith-communities>

**New Resource Portal for Safe Church**

The Abuse Awareness and Prevention Network (AAPN) of which I am a founding member, exists to inform and educate Canadian Christians about issues and policies relating to abuse awareness. The network also helps to equip denominations, congregations, schools, camps, and ministries with best practices and resources connected to abuse awareness and prevention. AAPN recently released their new website that anyone can access!

View Here <https://www.abuseawareness.net/>

As always, your Safe Church Committee is available for consultation, training and support. In addition, we have available many resources such as books and videos to assist your church with training and presentations.

Respectfully submitted

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Classis Huron Safe Church Committee

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