**Classis Huron Safe Church Committee Report, September 17, 2022**

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

1. To function as an Abuse Response Team according to Synodical Guidelines (as annotated for Classis Huron).
2. To provide comprehensive and on-going education and support to our churches in the prevention of and response to abuse.
3. To provide support to our churches in the prevention of, and response to abuse.

**Membership Update:**

We welcome Tiffany Graig, who is replacing Laura Duckworth, representing the Goderich CRC.

We are still in need of representatives from the Acton, Cambridge, Drayton, Lucknow and Orangeville churches.

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**

Planning is underway for the 2023 March 4th Inter-Classis Safe Church Conference which we hope to hold in-person, depending on the Covid situation.

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

**Abuse Awareness Sunday – September 25**

As a denomination, we have designated every fourth Sunday in September as “Abuse Awareness Sunday.”

One way your church can recognize Abuse Awareness Sunday is to acknowledge the ugly reality of abuse in the worship service through the use of a litany, sermon/message around the theme of abuse, or prayer. We have created a number of resources for your church to integrate into the service. Also, consider designating an offering for Safe Church on this Sunday to support the wider denominational efforts to be safe communities for those who participate in our ministries.

We invite every congregation to plan their worship service, litany, and sermon/message around the theme of abuse awareness.

Our theme for this year is Safe Church Basics: Five Steps to a Safer Church. We invite you to order bulletin inserts/ flyers for [your church here](https://www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/810117/safe-church-ministry-not-just-a-policy-a-way-of-being-the-church.aspx).

Worship Resources for Abuse Awareness Sunday 2022 | The Network

<https://network.crcna.org/safe-church/worship-resources-abuse-awareness-sunday-2022>

**Safe Church Webinar Series 2022: The Safe Church Basics**

**September 2022 Safe Church Webinar: Step 4 - Practice Being Restorative**

Join us September 21 at 12 pm EDT for our 4th webinar in our Safe Church Basics series. How can congregations practice being restorative while planning for the future, making decisions, and spreading the gospel in a world that sometimes feels like it is falling apart? How can the church move forward after change and loss? Do we have the capacity to listen, stay committed to relationships, take responsibility for actions and respect one another through it all? All of this may sound exhausting, but when we take shortcuts in our families, organizations, and congregations, we often react out of our anxiety which slights relationships, evades responsibility and may lead to various levels of harm and abuse. This webinar will introduce you to many of the restorative practice trainers in the CRCNA, resources, and opportunities for future training.

**Safe Church Ministry at Inspire 2022**

During Inspire 2022, Safe Church led three workshops. It was wonderful to be able to connect with volunteers and lay leaders within the church. If you are interested in any of the workshops that were offered through Safe Church during Inspire, please reach out to us at Safechurchministry@crcna.org to receive further information.

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

Atie Ott

Coordinator

Classis Huron Safe Church Committee