



The Presbytery of  
**DONEGAL**

## Boundary Training FAQ

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### **Why Does the Presbytery of Donegal Require Boundary Training?**

The Presbytery of Donegal believes that healthy boundaries are part of healthy ministry. In accordance with our Book of Order (G-6.0103) and holding to our commitment to engage in ministry that is safe and trustworthy, The Presbytery of Donegal requires Boundary Training. Part of this training covers the presbytery policy for prevention and response to sexual misconduct (see attached). This policy governs each of us and also is the model for the training pastors must arrange for their church officers and leaders. Child Protection policies and social media best practices are covered. In addition, Boundary Training is the opportunity to engage in reflection and conversation on the sticky situations and gray areas ministry professionals encounter.

Our goal is to equip our pastors and other teaching elders to use ministerial authority in ways that honor the worth and dignity of all people. In addition, our presbytery insurance provider requires that all Teaching Elders in service in our jurisdiction complete boundary training. Your insurance provider may also have the same requirements. Boundary Training is mandatory every three years in the Presbytery of Donegal for all Teaching Elders and compensated educators and youth workers. Once Level 1 is completed, subsequent Boundary Trainings are Level 2 trainings.

### **What is the Focus of Level 1 Boundary Training?**

The day begins with a broad consideration of boundaries and “sticky situations” led by David Miron of the Samaritan Counseling Center. The event also covers the Presbytery Sexual Misconduct Prevention Policy, Mandated Reporter options, and the Child Protection Policy model for congregations. Best practices for safeguards for social media are also explored.

### **What is the Focus of Level 2 Boundary Training?**

Event leaders are David Miron and Dr. Lesley Huff from the Samaritan Counseling Center. They lead a lively discussion and case-based conversation on the “grey areas” of boundary situations that pastors encounter. The event includes a brief refresher on laws and policies in the Commonwealth of PA and in the presbytery. The event is NOT a “repeat” of the comprehensive basic training in all policies and procedures.

### **What is the Focus of Honorably Retired (HR) Boundary Training?**

Event leaders are David Miron and Dr. Lesley Huff from the Samaritan Counseling Center. They lead a discussion and case-based conversation on the specific issues that retired pastors encounter. The event includes a brief refresher on laws and policies in the Commonwealth of PA and in the presbytery. The event is NOT a “repeat” of the comprehensive basic training in all policies and procedures.

### **Is There a Cost for Boundary Training?**

There is no charge to you to attend boundary training events, thanks to the support of the mission of the Presbytery of Donegal by our congregations.

### **What Happens if I Do Not Complete the Required Boundary Training?**

Our policy states that if required training has not been completed, administrative leave will be imposed until training has been completed. It will be up to the session whether the leave is paid leave or unpaid leave.