



Addressing Abuse Taskforce Ministry Description

This taskforce is being formed to carry out the Addressing Abuse Statements passed by delegates at Assembly 2015. The purpose of the taskforce is to educate leaders about the realities of sexualized abuse and equip them to respond appropriately when boundaries have been violated; equip credentialed and/or lay leaders to facilitate abuse support groups is a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus; to journey with people as they explore healing and restored hope is a way to offer Gods love to people who are experiencing pain, feeling alone and afraid, and are seeking a safe place to work through the impact of abuse on their life.

Major Responsibilities:

1. Oversee the implementation of actions designated by the MC USA Churchwide Statement on Sexual Abuse within Franconia Conference.
2. Develop and support SNAP support groups.
3. Work closely with the conference board, ministerial committee and staff to educate leaders and congregations about sexual harassment and abuse and promote and develop teaching and practices that promote healthy and wholesome sexuality. See appendix A of MCUSA Churchwide Statement on Sexual Abuse.
4. Work with Child Protection Team to make sure child protection policies are in place and followed.
5. Develop procedures for reporting allegations of sexual harassment and abuse that may occur between adults.
6. Work with the conference communication staff to develop and provide resources to congregations via the conference website.
7. Develop curriculum and work with LEADership Ministers to assist credentialed leaders in preaching and teaching about healthy relationships that are void of all types of abuse.

Traits for an effective commission member:

- Respected in the congregation and community.
- Team player.
- Good listener.
- Compassionate/empathetic.
- Courageous and calm in crises.
- Perseveres through challenging situations and resistance.
- Demonstrates self-care in times of stress.
- Has clear criminal and child abuse background checks within the past year.
- Experience and/or formal education in trauma awareness, psychology, victim advocacy/ working with victims of abuse or a similar field.

STAFF CONNECTION: Jenifer Eriksen-Morales

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES: Attend meetings as a liaison, ensure communication with the conference communication manager about activities and resources, and ensure all activities are part of your quarterly report.