

Safe Church Ministry Coordinator for Classis Quinte: Envisioned

The Safe Church Ministry Coordinator is a position envisioned to assist each classis in establishing an effective and sustainable safe church team. Why? We are called by God to reflect our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to a world that needs him so much. Our love for God is reflected in the way we love and treat one another. Therefore, active safe church ministry helps us live into God's calling by building communities where the value of each person is honored and where people are free to worship and grow free from abuse.

In addition, we are part of a culture where abuse is far too common, and has wounded many of God's children. Therefore, active safe church ministry equips God's people to respond in situations of abuse with compassion and justice that foster healing. This kind of response provides opportunity for the transforming power of God's love to be revealed in our midst. The Coordinator will help cultivate spaces of learning, equipping and healing so that churches can better experience the good news of God's kingdom that transforms lives and communities worldwide (CRCNA Vision).

There are three ways that we envision this position to work:

First - Each Coordinator will use their own leadership gifts and skills to equip and train others who are active in congregational safe church ministry. Facilitating meetings (virtual and actual) will help to encourage and support individuals who are actively working in each congregation towards greater awareness, leading to more effective abuse prevention, and response. We recognize that each congregation has unique needs as well as gifts and resources. Safe church ministry must fit these unique contexts, which is why empowering people to serve in each congregation is so important.

Second - Classis support for a Coordinator position will show that abuse awareness, prevention and response is taken seriously, which is an especially important message in this time, when the voices of those who have suffered abuse are louder and stronger than ever. A designated position, whether paid or unpaid, provides an ongoing integral connection with the classis structure, offering greater sustainability as well as a bit of accountability. It will help keep the issue from "falling off the back burner" which so commonly happens when no one is specifically paying attention to it.

Third - A Safe Church Ministry Coordinator for Classis Quinte will need resources, encouragement and support. Therefore, creating connections with others doing the work, building knowledge of resources that are available and offering consultation and coaching as needed, will become a primary responsibility of the director and Safe Church Ministry associate.

Synod has repeatedly reminded all classes in the denomination of the vital importance of a safe church team, noting that, “a safe church team is an important part of the pastoral care that the church offers to its members.” (Acts of Synod 2014; p.559) It is our hope that this position will assist our congregations and classes in this matter. We hope that you will prayerfully consider the advantages to creating this position within your classis structure. In some classes this position is already in place, whether paid or unpaid, and the results speak for themselves in terms of increased learning opportunities, better connections, and more effective prevention and response efforts.

Safe Church Ministry Coordinator for Classis Quinte

Job Description

The Safe Church Ministry Coordinator plays a valuable role in working in partnership with the Classis Safe Church Team to educate and equip churches within Classis Quinte in abuse awareness, prevention and response.

Responsibilities and Duties:

1. Organize Classis –wide safe church ministry teams

- a. Recruit team members from congregations within Classis to form a Classis Safe Church Team** (SCT)
- b. Facilitates meetings with SCT (approx.. 4 x year) to collaborate, encourage, equip and empower safe church congregational leaders within Classis through educational support
- c. Establish and maintain contact with SCT regularly updating them and providing them with Classis Quinte updates and minutes.
- d. Resource the SCT by connecting them with online Safe church ministry resources and educational opportunities as well as any other local resources that encourage further education related to abuse awareness, prevention and response.
- e. Oversee communication between the SCT and the congregational safe church ministry teams
 - to share provided resource materials,
 - to encourage continuity in abuse prevention awareness and promotions within the individual churches
 - to create awareness for who to contact in cases of suspected abuse.
- f. Encourage and participate in the Advisory Panel Training, along with the SCT.

2. Develop a collaborative working relationship with Classis

The Safe Church Ministry Coordinator develops- a working relationship with Classis by

- a. Regular attendance and reporting at Classis meetings
- b. Between Classis meetings, regular connection with Classis Stated Clerk to submit any written reports to the Classis Ministerial Committee prior to their meetings.

3. Connect with Safe Church Ministry (CRCNA)

Liaise with members of the Safe Church Ministry to receive resources, coaching calls or visits. Discussions will facilitate understanding of:

- Resources available, from within and outside of the CRC for promotion, equipping and training.
- Processes and goals for leading the team forward

- Situations, and/or events affecting the ministry

Qualifications

- Ideally have experience in the field of Social Work, Counselling or Health Care
- Member in good standing of a CRC church within Classis Quinte
- Excellent leadership and communication skills
- Can work independently and within a team setting
- Organized, punctual and dependable.

**For more information on What a Safe Church Coordinator Is and for What a Safe Church Team is, please reference the following links:

<https://network.crcna.org/safe-church/safe-church-classis-coordinator>

<https://network.crcna.org/safe-church/safe-church-teams-purpose-classis-safe-church-team>