



Safe Church Ministry

**Healthy
relationships
Healthy boundaries**

Healthy churches are safe churches

Relationships are open, honest and respectful

The infinite value of each person is honored

There is no fear of any kind of abuse

Abuse is responded to with justice and compassion

Support for those who have been hurt by someone

Accountability for those who have hurt someone

Resources are available for your church:

- ❖ Your classis or regional Safe Church Team
- ❖ The Office of Safe Church Ministry

For more information Contact:

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or visit: www.crcna.org/safechurch

Building Safe Church Ministry Conference – April 29-30, 2011

About 22 Safe Church Ministry Team leaders gathered in Grand Rapids. We asked the question, **what defines a truly safe church?** Below are the top 4.

- 1. Every church has a written safety policy in place which includes:**
 - a. Screening by all staff and volunteers - background check & references
 - b. All staff and volunteers aware of, committed to, and regularly trained in using the policy
 - c. Accountability procedures and consequences for those who do not follow the policy
 - d. A system for regular review of the policy
- 2. Every church has protocols in place for responding to misconduct by a church leader which are carefully followed**
- 3. Issues of abuse can be freely discussed; this includes:**
 - a. Acknowledgement that abuse happens and involves church members either in or outside of church
 - b. An understanding of the nature of offending, including the power & control dynamic, manipulation, minimization and entitlement
 - c. Disclosure of abuse is met with compassion and support for those who have been hurt
- 4. Leadership at all levels is committed to the importance of Safe Church Ministry**

Is your church a truly safe church?

Helpful Web Resources: For Creating Safe Church Policy:

<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/index.cfm/resources/ministry-safety/>

This insurance agency focuses on churches and has good ideas, tips and checklists

<http://www.lifeway.com/>

Search this site for articles and ideas related to abuse and abuse prevention

www.churchsafety.com

Lots of good resources for building safe churches on this site (some free some for a fee)

For General Abuse Awareness (Domestic and Sexual Violence):

<http://www.theraveproject.com>

RAVE stands for Religion and Violence E-learning. It provides excellent online resources including survivor stories and online training for pastors

www.faithtrustinstitute.org

Faith Trust Institute is an organization that works at the intersection of faith and domestic and sexual violence – the office of Safe Church Ministry has some of their products

www.futureswithoutviolence.org

Formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund – The name is the mission