



Safe Sanctuaries **Nurturing a Culture of Safety and Dignity in the Church**

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Date: October 5 - November 2; live discussions on October 16 & 20 at 10:00am and October 26 at 1:00pm (PDT)

Venue: Online

The overwhelming number of headlines exposing abuses perpetuated by renowned Christian leaders, combined with numerous stories of power misuses and abuses that land closer to our homes and work environments, should prompt every Christian to (1) consider the degree to which abuse can and does occur in ministry and home environments, and (2) take proactive, intentional steps to cultivate cultures of safety and dignity wherever the people of God live and gather.

This micro-course will help all Christians, especially ministry leaders, foster cultures of safety and dignity wherever God has called them to serve, and in so doing, fulfill the commandments of Jesus as articulated in biblical texts like Luke 10:25-37 and Matthew 25:34-46.

To that end, by the end of this micro-course, learners will be informed about the causes and effects of abuse and have developed the basic knowledge, skill, and character needed to responsibly prevent and respond to occurrences of abuse.

Student Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Intellectual Formation (Cognitive Domain)

- Know what it takes to be a safe person for others, especially people who have endured abuse and trauma
- Discern how power imbalances can lead to misconduct and abuse

Practical Skills (Practical Domain)

- Provide safe places for people who have endured trauma so they can find help and journey towards post-traumatic growth
- Prevent abuse and stop abusers
- Wisely navigate a litigious society

Character Formation (Affective Domain)

- Have the courage needed to responsibly create cultures of safety and dignity, no matter the cost

Resources

- [Safe Sanctuary Workbook and Resources](#)
- Langberg, Dianne. *Redeeming Power: Understanding Authority and Abuse in the Church*. Ada: Brazos Press, 2020.
- Keeger, Brian. *The Courageous Ask: A Proactive Approach to Prevent the Fall of Christian Nonprofit Leaders*. Tuba Publishing LLC, 2021.

Assessment Tools

Participation: 50% of final grade

Curious and constructive dialogue is integral to engaging with people in conversations about this difficult topic, so meaningful participation in live discussions is an essential part of this micro-course offering. In terms of 'meaningful participation,' we mean showing up to each of our meetings and speaking thoughtfully to the questions we explore with each other. If you can do that, you will receive full marks for this assessment component.

Following engagement with the recorded instruction videos, our micro-course cohort will meet online via Zoom three times (each meeting will be an hour and fifteen minutes, **dates TBD**), to discuss the content in semi-structured conversations guided by the instructor. Online meetings will generally assume the following format:

- 10-15 minutes: opening remarks, including outline of key themes/questions for discussion, provide by instructor
- 35-45 minutes: guide discussion
- 10-15 minutes: closing remarks, tying up of loose ends, by instructor

Workbook: 20% of final grade

Due October 20th (before second live discussions)

Each recorded video has an accompanying section in the workbook, including case studies, which will help you get the most out of the content are engaging. It will also prepare you for live discussions. Once you have completed the workbook, you can submit it for review on the learning platform.

Reflection: 30%

Due October 30th

Once you have completed the videos, live discussions, and workbook, write a 1000-word reflection about how this micro-course applies to your ministry context. Make sure to describe what has encouraged, challenged, and/or changed you throughout this course, and share practical steps you can take in your ministry context to better cultivate a culture of safety and dignity. Submit on the learning platform once you have completed it.

Course Outline

Content
Introduction
1. Introduce instructors, micro-course format, and trigger warning
Session 1
Why Safe Sanctuaries?
1. The importance of the topic
2. Definitions
3. Biblical Reflection
4. Description of goals, competencies, and assignments
Session 2

Personal Reflections on the Issues
1. Testimony 1
2. Testimony 2
Session 3
Proactive Prevention in Ministry
1. Personal and staff protection
2. Ministry wide protection
3. Case study
Session 4
Domestic Abuse and Our Response
1. A Personal Journey of Discovery
2. Current Realities
3. Contributing Factors and Obstacles
4. Fundamentals of Effective Intervention
Session 5
Preventing Domestic Abuse
1. Top Ten Preventative Steps
2. Case Studies
3. Galatians 6:7-10
Conclusion
Closing words and prayer

Resulting Credential

This micro-course leads to 1 hour of academic credit at Northwest. Usually this will be recognized with a “Letter of Completion” issued to document continuing education work. Completion of 3 Lifelong Learning micro courses in a three-part series (or 3 closely related topics), worth a total of 3 credit hours, may be applied to another Northwest competency-based credential such as the GAP Year, CCF, or possibly a Graduate Certificate.

If you are in or are thinking about enrolling in a CBTE program at Northwest, work you do for this micro-course offering may be used for advanced standing in the following competencies

Undergraduate

208.2 Love Your Neighbour: competency 208.2 (Diploma of Christian Leadership)

Graduate

703. Community: competency 703.6 (Master of Arts in Biblical Leadership)
603. Hope & Care: competency 603.4 (Master of Divinity)