

## HEALTHY BOUNDARIES POLICY

[Approved by Presbytery, 11/28/2017]

[Responsible Commission: Commission for Church Professionals]

### I. Introduction

#### *Psalm 119:10-16*

- <sup>10</sup> I have sought you with all my heart.  
Don't let me stray from any of your commandments!
- <sup>11</sup> I keep your word close, in my heart,  
so that I won't sin against you.
- <sup>12</sup> You, LORD, are to be blessed!  
Teach me your statutes.
- <sup>13</sup> I will declare out loud  
all the rules you have spoken.
- <sup>14</sup> I rejoice in the content of your laws  
as if I were rejoicing over great wealth.
- <sup>15</sup> I will think about your precepts  
and examine all your paths.
- <sup>16</sup> I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget what you have said.

For over three decades, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has acknowledged that sexual misconduct and exploitation have existed in its churches and among its members. Policies and procedures were put in place and have lessened the number of cases. We have learned a lot. The Healthy Boundaries training presents a positive approach to our professional conduct and responsibilities.

### II. Policy

*The Presbytery of Scioto Valley seeks to engage church professionals of the Presbytery in understanding, teaching, and maintaining healthy boundaries in their ministries.*

This Policy will:

- Identify when training takes place and who should attend; and
- Define the process for annually reviewing and updating of this policy.

A Church Professional is defined as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, a Commissioned Pastor, or a Certified Christian Educator. The policy also applies to anyone who acts on behalf of the Presbytery such as staff, retreat leaders, mission teams, and Presbytery Commission members.

### **III. Procedure for Healthy Boundary Training**

#### **Compliance**

- All Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Pastors, or staff of Presbytery who are actively serving in a church or on the staff of Presbytery will be expected to receive certification every three years for having attended a Healthy Boundaries training course provided by the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. Those who have transferred from another presbytery, a partner in the Formula of Agreement, or from churches uniting in Christ that offer Healthy Boundary Training will produce a certificate of completion of the training within the last two years to the Commission for Church Professionals to stay in compliance.
- Other Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Pastors who are not actively serving are encouraged to take this training to enhance their ministries to the church.
- Anyone working on behalf of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley will be expected to complete a Healthy Boundaries training course provided by the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.
- The Commission for Church Professionals will monitor compliance.
- The Stated Clerk will maintain the records of those who have completed the course.

All new church professionals will participate in the Healthy Boundaries 101 training course provided by the Presbytery of Scioto Valley within the first eighteen months of service. By the end of the fourth year of being received by the Presbytery, these church professionals will complete Healthy Boundaries 201. Every three years after this, they will complete a Healthy Boundaries Refresher Course.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament whose Healthy Boundaries certification is over two years out of date will not be considered for election to any presbytery commission or office, will not receive attestation for Personal Information Forms filed with the Church Leadership Connection, and will have their non-compliance noted in any reference check.

The commission of a Commissioned Pastor whose Healthy Boundaries certification is over two years out of date will not be renewed at the next commission anniversary. A new commission will not be approved until the Commissioned Pastor has obtained the required Healthy Boundaries training.

#### **Courses Offered**

The courses offered by the Presbytery will be:

- Healthy Boundaries 101 (a day long course) offered at least once a year.
- Healthy Boundaries 201 (a day long course) offered at least once a year.
- Healthy Boundaries Refresher Course (a two-hour course) offered at least once a year at PIE or in conjunction with Presbytery meetings.
- Healthy Boundaries Custom Workshop may be offered for specific groups prior to their service on behalf of the Presbytery (for example: prior to a mission trip or youth retreat)

#### **IV. Updating the Healthy Boundaries Policy**

This policy will be reviewed by the Commission for Church Professionals and the Stated Clerk. Any necessary changes will be presented to the Presbytery for approval. Additionally, this Commission shall annually review resources and make these available in training and on the PSV website.