



## Boundary Training in the PSEC

For many years the PSEC has been in relationship with PNEC, the Lehigh Presbytery, and the NE PA Synod of the ELCA in providing Boundary Training for clergy. Over the last three years, it has been evident that these course offerings are not always convenient for PSEC clergy. It is also evident that these courses are repetitious and, at times, boring.

If ever we had to highlight the importance and intended effect of Boundary Training, we need look no further than recent headline stories about Harvey Weinstein (film maker), Michael Oreskes (NPR), Bill O'Reilly (Fox News) -- just to name a few. As much as pastors are called on to help people rise above these behaviors (and to make amends when they do), we lead first by example.

Therefore, we are planning the following Boundary Training Plan for 2018.

**Basic Boundary Training:** Basic Boundary Training will be offered by the PSEC at least one time a year.

If you took Boundary Training between 2015 and 2017, you can begin to take advanced courses.

**Advanced Boundary Training:** Once you have taken the Basic Boundary Training, you are encouraged to take the 3-hour Advanced Boundary Course. This 3-hour course would count for 3 contact hours of Continuing Education. Below are some of the topics that will be offered over a three-year cycle. The idea for these trainings comes from the Revised **MARKS** of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the UCC and the **2017 UCC Ministerial Code**.

1. Boundary Training for **Retired Clergy** (or nearing retirement).
  - a. 2017 UCC Ministerial Code: "Covenant with my Ministry Setting: Neither interfere with nor intrude upon the ministry of my successor, upon my departure from a minister setting";
  - b. 2017 UCC Ministerial Code: "deal honorably with the record of my predecessor and successor. Not perform pastoral services within a congregation or for a member of a congregation, without the invitation of the current pastor of that congregation."
2. Boundary Training on **Maintaining Personal and Relationship Boundaries**.
  - a. MARKS Section 5 "Caring for Others"
  - b. 2017 UCC Ministerial Code: Covenant with Self and Family"

3. Boundary Training on **Social Media**.
  - a. MARKS Section 8 “Strengthening Inter- and Intra-Personal Assets— Demonstrating excellent communication skills.”
  - b. 2017 UCC Ministerial Code: Covenant with all Ordained Ministers-“Use technology and social media responsibly and Attribute the sources of words and ideas that are not my own.”
  
4. Boundary Training on **Keeping Covenant with the UCC**. How do your core values and the core values of the UCC that you serve, inform your ministry?
  - a. MARKS, Section 2 “Nurturing UCC Identify”.
  - b. 2017 Ministerial Code, “Covenant with the UCC.”
  
5. Boundary Training on **Maintaining Political and Personal Boundaries while Preaching God’s love**. How do we lead in this time of division? How do we respond when injustice appears?
  - a. MARKS, Section 3 “Building Transformational Leadership Skills”
  - b. MARKS Section 6 “Participating in Theological Praxis,”
  - c. MARKS Section 7 “Encountering the Other with Justice and Mercy.”
  - d. 2017 UCC Ministerial Code: “Covenant with God.”
  
6. Boundary Training when **working with children, youth and vulnerable adults**. This could also include info regarding mandatory reporting, etc.
  - a. MARKS section 4 “Leading faith formation effectively across generations.”
  - b. MARKS section 5 “Understanding and ministering to stages of human development across the life span.”
  
7. Boundary Training on **Supervising Staff**.
  - a. MARKS Section 5
  - b. MARKS Section 8
  - c. 2017 UCC Ministerial Code: “Covenant with the UCC”
  
8. Boundary Training on **Finances-Financing self, family, and ministry**.
  - a. MARKS Sections 8 “Strengthening Inter- and Intra- Personal Assets”
  - b. 2017 UCC Ministerial Code: “Covenant with Self and family”
  - c. 2017 UCC Ministerial Code: “Covenant With Ministry Setting.”
  
9. Boundary Training on **Addiction**. Not just sex, drugs, etc. but also over-working and over-functioning. How these addictions can have effects on those we serve and our own wellbeing.
  - a. MARKS Section 5 “Caring for Others”
  - b. MARKS Section 8 “Strengthening Inter- and Intra-Personal Assets.”

PSEC will present one basic and two advanced trainings per year. So, you take the Basic training, you will have 6 hours. If you are taking the advanced courses, you would need to take two advanced courses for a total of 6 hours over a three-year period.

**Diversity training** will be offered twice a year for a 3-hour session by the PSEC. Every clergy is expected to attend this once every 3 years.

### **PSEC Boundary Training 2018**