

# Maintaining Boundaries in a Digital Age



***Maintaining Boundaries in a Digital Age*** is an online course offered by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary. It explores issues of clergy ethics in an era of instantaneous, electronic communication. It helps spiritual leaders stay healthy and attentive to appropriate boundaries in the midst of new challenges. While this training builds upon the content presented in the basic Boundary Training workshops that were offered in 2014-2016, a primer on preventing clergy sexual misconduct, it satisfies the every three year boundary training requirement stipulated in the synod's ***Statement of Policy and Protocol Regarding Sexual Misconduct by Rostered Ministers***.

## Course Information

1. All active rostered ministers, stated supply, vicars/interns, seminarians serving a congregation, those awaiting call, those on leave from call, and retired rostered ministers actively serving a synod/judicatory in a pastoral/church leadership capacity, will be required to complete this training.
2. Since this is an on-line training, you will need access to a computer with Adobe Flash Player.
3. Rostered ministers who do not have access to a computer will be encouraged to explore ways in which to complete the on-line training (e.g. contact their local church pastor or conference dean). Additionally, the synod office will be available to assist with this effort. Rostered ministers are encouraged to assist their colleagues who do not have computer access with completion of the on-line training.
4. The participant has sixty (60) days to complete the course once he or she has begun the training. **The course needs to be completed by December 31, 2017.**
5. The cost of the course is \$49.00 per person and the participant will register using a group code. Payment by credit/debit card is made payable directly to the Lewis Center at the time of registration.
6. ***Maintaining Boundaries in a Digital Age*** is presented in three parts:
  - Part I focuses on the importance of boundaries and how to maintain appropriate boundaries.
  - Part II examines some of the challenges of ministry in an electronic age.
  - Part III considers sexual ethics in the digital age.
7. The amount of time required to complete the course varies from person to person, but you are advised to set aside six (6) hours. The training allows the learner to start and stop as needed, re-entering the course by following the instructions below. **Please be sure to make a written notation of where you last ended, if not completing the training in one sitting.** There is no

automatic bookmark that will allow you to directly return to the page or section where you ended.

8. The course consists of modules incorporating reading material, videos, resources, and a series of reflection questions. You may print the material, including transcripts of the videos. Please be sure to set your desired print functions (e.g. page orientation - portrait vs. landscape; black and white vs. color; two-sided vs. single sided, etc.) prior to printing.
9. To complete the course, you must respond to the reflection questions. **Please make sure to hit the “Submit Answer” button after responding to each question before moving to the next section.** This will save your answers. You are advised to type and save your answers in a Word document; then copy and paste those responses in the respective text box. This way, you will have your answers saved in case of a technical glitch.
10. The Lewis Center will evaluate your responses on a “pass/fail” basis before issuing a certificate of completion. Upon successful completion of the course, a certificate of completion indicating 0.5 units of continuing education credit will be emailed to the address listed on your registration.
11. Participants should keep their certificates for their files – do not discard them. (This is one way to verify completion.) The Lewis Center for Church Leadership also will provide the Virginia Synod electronic copies of all certificates for placement in individual ministry files and for entry into the synod database.
12. **Your access to the course material is terminated after completion.** Again, please make sure to download or print any material you might want for future reference, setting your desired print functions, before clicking the **Complete Course Now** button. As part of the course, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership is preparing a downloadable supplemental resource manual. You will be informed of its availability upon release.
13. Lenae Osmondson and Mindy Reynolds will have access to current registrations for, participation in, and completion of the training.

**While the course is targeted primarily for clergy and deacons, other spiritual leaders in congregations and church affiliated organizations are encouraged to participate in this training.**

## Registration Instructions for the Virginia Synod, ELCA

### Here’s how to log-in and get started:

1. Please view the instruction video prior to beginning the registration process:  
<https://youtu.be/Uvb8jDyq14w>
2. Register and log-in by going to: <https://www.lewisonlinelearning.org/CourseInfo/10000>
3. Choose the option “Enroll In This Course” and enter your email address.
4. Copy and paste the group code: GRP63105841950020.
5. Complete your registration and begin the course.

6. When you return to the course, use the same link above, but choose the first option “Already Enrolled In This Course? Sign In.”

If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at [lewiscenter@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:lewiscenter@wesleyseminary.edu) or 202-664-5700 Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Eastern time.

Both Lenae Osmondson and Mindy Reynolds are available for assistance as well. They can be reached at:

757-622-9421 or [osmondson@vasynod.org](mailto:osmondson@vasynod.org) AND 804-516-6784 or [reynolds@vasynod.org](mailto:reynolds@vasynod.org)