



September 10, 2021

Every four years those under appointment or assignment in the Northern Illinois Conference are asked to complete Ethics and Boundary Training. In previous years we have held this training across the conference, coming together in person to share our experiences and learn with one another. Given the uncertainty of meeting in large groups this fall, we will be utilizing an online training program for this work. You can learn more about the Safe Gatherings Clergy and Ministerial Ethics Training here ([insert flyer](#)).

Every day we hear stories of someone whose trust was violated by a person in authority. Clergy are given a sacred trust as we minister to our parishioners at the most sensitive and vulnerable times in their lives. This quadrennial training is just one way in which we can help guard against violating that trust and refresh our understanding of roles and boundaries in a complicated world.

All those under appointment or assignment in the NIC are expected to complete this course by October 31, 2021. The course should take approximately 2 hours to complete and the cost is \$22.00. My office will be notified when you have passed the training. You will then receive a certificate of completion from the Northern Illinois Conference and a notation of your successful completion of the training will be entered into your file.

If you have recently completed the “Safe Gatherings” training for volunteers with children, youth and vulnerable adults please note that this is not the same training. That training focused on volunteers working with children, youth and vulnerable adults and includes a background check. The training you are required to take this fall is specifically geared toward pastoral ethics and does not include a background check.

Here is how it works.

If you have completed the “Safe Gatherings” training you are a registered user. You can log into your account. There you will see the link for the clergy ethics course. Once you submit your payment you will have access to the course.

If you are not yet a registered user you may go to safegatherings.com and click the Clergy Ethics course button to set up your account for the clergy Ethics course. Follow the instructions attached here ([insert instructions](#)).

Please set aside at least two hours to focus on this training. You will want to minimize interruptions and distractions while you are taking the course. There will be quizzes along the way and a final exam at the end of the session. You must receive a passing grade to complete the training.

If you have questions about the training, please feel free to contact me at:
achristo@umcnic.org.

If you need assistance in registering or navigating the Safe Gatherings site you may contact Safe Gatherings at 888-241-8258 from 8am to 5pm CST.

If you have questions about your record or certificate of completion you can contact Laura Lopez at llopez@umcnic.org

Thank you for all that you do to witness to Christ compassion and love in a challenging world, while caring for the least, the lost and the vulnerable.

In Christ,

Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Asst. to the Bishop/Dir. of Connectional Ministries