

Training for a Bishop's Response Team

The United Methodist Church is committed to the prevention and response of sexual misconduct committed within the church. It is crucial that our response be one which holds people accountable and also promotes healing for all involved in a complaint. One resource for used for healing and encouraged within The UMC, is the use of a trained Response Team.

If congregations, staff, and individuals involved do not go through an intentional, sensitively planned healing process, they are likely to suffer significant impairment to their community in the months and years to come. We cannot gloss over or sidestep the healing process.

Training is being offered for people interested in serving on your Bishop's Response Team and/or as an individual support person to the victim or accused in cases of sexual misconduct. A Response Team can be a valuable resource to the complainant and/or the local congregation or organization where the accused was in ministry. The Response Team is vital in providing support to move forward in healing and to provide education to help understand the nature of abuse by faith leaders.

Additionally, many bishops choose to use a Response Team when any traumatic incident affects the life of a Church or other local ministry. This may include a sudden death/suicide, unexpected departure of a minister, school shooting, or any other traumatic event in the community. The Response Team provides the structured opportunity for healing to begin in the life of the congregation and staff.

The training is being offered by:

Becky Posey Williams, Sr. Director of Sexual Ethics and Advocacy

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women