

September 15, 2018

Dear Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders, For 2018 the required training you are being asked to use is the online course "Keeping Your Church Safe" provided by the Insurance Board and offered through Praesidium's Armatus Online Training. There is no charge thanks to the Insurance Board/Presbyterian Church (USA).

You will receive an email providing you the link for this course. There will be instructions (along with "what to do" should you encounter any difficulties while participating in this course). Upon your completion of the course (which needs to be done prior to December 31st), Heartland Presbytery will confirm your completion of this course.

The reporting laws in Missouri and Kansas for child abuse/neglect are different for each state and know you can call their toll free numbers to inquire about any situation (and your responsibility to report). The phone numbers for child abuse/neglect are:

Missouri: 1-800-392-3738 and Kansas: 1-800-922-5330

As a denomination, we have been strongly encouraged to set church policies for "Safe Churches" (222nd General Assembly/2016). I quote from a December 6, 2017 letter from our past moderators (Rev. T. Denise Anderson & Rev. Jan Edmiston) "We humbly ask that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) continue to be a Church in prayer, asking God to bring healing to the victimized, redemption and correction to the victimizer, and a cultural shift to our denomination so that we might have the abundant life promised to us by Jesus Christ". Thank you for your participation.

Safe Boundaries Committee, Heartland Presbytery, Ann Ditty, RE (Moderator)