

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BOUNDARY AWARENESS SEMINARS

1. Are boundary seminars or workshops required?

There is no requirement to attend such workshop in the governing documents of the ELCA or the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. However, bishops expect that such events will be offered and attended by members of the roster.

2. Does *Vision and Expectations* speak to this matter?

Note: *Vision and Expectations* is the document of standards that the ELCA has for its rostered leaders based on vows made at ordination, commissioning, or consecration. There are two documents, one is for clergy and the other one is for associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers. The two may be found at:

<http://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/~link.aspx?id=881FEF01A708421BBA626F079AED7BCD&z=z>.

Vision and Expectations does lay out expectations for holy living that includes proper keeping of boundaries. Specifically, *Vision and Expectations* for clergy states:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in American has high expectations for those who serve within the ordained ministry of this church. It does so because it recognizes that when offense is given by an ordained minister, the witness of the gospel may be impaired and the ability to carry out public ministry is threatened. (p 7)

The ordained ministry is to be an example of Holy Living so that the ordained minister's life does not become an impediment to the hearing of the gospel or a scandal to the community of faith. (p 9)

Specifically: *The church expects that its ordained ministers will ...*

- *Strive to develop a public reputation for integrity,*
- *Develop and nurture appropriate relationships with others,*
- *Respect and support single people ... those who are married ... and those in publically accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships,*
- *Reject promiscuity, the manipulation of others for purposes of sexual gratification, and all attempts of sexual seduction and harassment,*
- *Live in fidelity to his or her spouse, or his or her partner, and*
- *Honor and respect privileged communication. (pp 8-12)*

3. What expectations does *Vision and Expectations* have for those who have been commissioned or consecrated for rostered leadership?

Vision and Expectations for Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers states:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in American has high expectations for those who serve within the commissioned and consecrated ministries of this church. It holds these expectations because it recognizes that when offense is given by an associate in ministry, deaconess or diaconal minister, the witness of the gospel may be impaired and the ability to carry out public ministry is threatened. (p 11)

The associate in ministry, deaconess or diaconal minister is to be an example of holy living so that the minister's life does not become an impediment to the hearing of the gospel or a scandal to the community of faith. (p 13)

Specifically: *The commissioned or consecrated minister is expected to:*

- *be honest and forthright in dealings with others while protecting privileged and confidential communications,*
- *develop and nurture appropriate relationships with others,*
- *respect and support single people ... those who are married ... and those in publically accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships,*
- *eject promiscuity, the manipulation of others for purposes of sexual gratification, and all attempts of sexual seduction and harassment, and*
- *live in fidelity to his or her spouse, or his or her partner. (pp 13-17)*

4. Are there other expectations for attending a boundaries seminar or workshop?

While states and insurance companies vary, some have expectations about attending such training.

5. How often should I attend such an event?

Every three years.