

Required Trainings

There are several areas of required training for clergy and lay leaders that reflect the values and policies of the diocese as established by Diocesan Council and Diocesan Convention and the mandates of General Convention. The purposes of the trainings are to keep our churches places of safety and hospitality and to engage in dialogue about diversity and commonality.

Protection of Children from Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Prevention training sessions will shortly be available as on-line programs offered by the national church. In keeping with Diocesan Council policy adopted in October 2006, all diocesan personnel, including lay employees and volunteers who regularly work with or around children and youth, and employees and volunteers who chaperone diocesan youth events will be required to take the child protection training; and, all diocesan personnel, lay employees and volunteers who are in roles of authority are required to take the sexual misconduct prevention training.

When the on-line programs are ready for use, access information will be made available to all members of the diocese.

In the meanwhile, employees, staff and volunteers can use the program, *Safeguarding God's Children*, which is a three-hour program easily administered for small groups and at times that are convenient for the individuals. The program is available through the Bishop Anand Resource Center, 973-430-9902.

Anti-racism training and dialogues have the overall goal of eliminating racism. Some specific goals are the appreciation of the different races, ethnicities and cultures existing in our communities; an attempt to expose the various prejudicial attitudes and behaviors people may have about their own group and other ethnic, racial or cultural groups; to help us understand how we are recruited into racism; and, understanding of the interrelationship among various 'isms' and their relationship to social power.

Each session has ground rules for dialogue designed to primarily understanding the difference between debate and dialogue; respect for each individual, and a willingness to participate in an effort to eradicate this sin.

The diocesan canons were amended by two Diocesan Conventions mandating anti-racism training as a requirement for election or appointment to diocesan offices.

The training is offered periodically. Dates are publicized in the weekly Digest, on the diocesan listserv, and are listed on the Diocesan calendar which can be accessed on the diocesan web site.