

The Shepherd Project

Equipping the Church to address sexual abuse in the areas of prevention, intervention, and recovery

The Samaritan Women has been leading the charge in restorative care for victims of domestic sex trafficking for the past 13 years. Over that time, we have learned a great deal about the trauma histories of our survivors and many of the social factors that have contributed to their vulnerability. Sexual abuse and misconduct in all its forms is rampant in our day – destroying marriages, families, and lives. Members of our community and congregations are suffering and we need to use our voices to invite them out of the pain, shame, and isolation of these wounds. Dr. Bruce Perry, a nationally-recognized trauma specialist has said, “trauma can only be healed in relationship.” We know this to be true, and we believe the healing relationship is with Christ, but it comes through us.

In response, The Samaritan Women has created a year-long program, *The Shepherd Project*, and we are inviting your church to participate. The goal of this program is to de-stigmatize conversations and equip the Church with the tools and resources necessary to understand sexual wounding, protect the vulnerable, and respond to abuse. We want to reframe the Church as a safe place where safe conversations and healing help is offered. We are calling on the Church to address sexual abuse and exploitation at its roots.

We invite 1-4 representatives from your church to commit to one year of learning about the issues and serve as a bridge between what we teach and what would be most helpful to your members. Throughout 2021, we will be providing monthly virtual trainings on various topics of abuse and equipping church representatives with tools to bring back to their community. We will have trauma specialists, expert speakers, and counselors to enrich learning. We will showcase resources, essential practices, services, and curriculum.

Dates: January 2021 – December 2021; First Monday of each month (with the exception of September)

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Location: Virtual Zoom Meetings

Tuition: \$300 per church (One-time payment or \$25/month)

Timeline: The year will be divided into 4 quarters. Each quarter will focus on one of four topics: sex trafficking, child abuse, pornography, and sexual assault. Each topic will be addressed through the lens of prevention, intervention, and recovery.

		PREVENTION	INTERVENTION	RECOVERY
Quarter 1	Sex Trafficking	January 4 th	February 1 st	March 1 st
Quarter 2	Child Abuse	April 5 th	May 3 rd	June 7 th
Quarter 3	Pornography	July 5 th	August 2 nd	September 13 th
Quarter 4	Sexual Assault	October 4 th	November 1 st	December 6 th

Please contact Jasmyne Cummings at jcumings@thesamaritanwomen.org for interests and inquiries.

