

Introducing

Balancing Acts – *Keeping children safe in congregations*

A New Online Course for Congregational Leaders

“People arrive at our faith communities wondering if they will be safe to imagine the divine, in unorthodox and meaningful ways, safe from physical, emotional and spiritual stress or harm, safe to be in relationship with companions who share the religious quest, safe to be honest and authentic, safe for one’s partner, children and families. Being attentive to what makes a congregation a place that values just relations can help to make it safe in all these ways. We should expect nothing less. .”

Tracey Robinson-Harris, Director of Congregational Services, UUA

This ground-breaking course was developed collaboratively between the Unitarian Universalist Association, LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators' Association) and NEARI (New England Adolescent Research Institute), with financial assistance from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism. The course offers information, policies, and procedural suggestions to create a congregation where children and youth will be safe from sexual abuse. For members of a faith community, this online Balancing Acts resource will provide you with essential tools needed for a comprehensive approach to safety and prevention.

INSTRUCTORS:

Reverend Debra W. Haffner, Director of the Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing
Joan Tabachnick, M.B.A., Director of Educational Initiatives, New England Adolescent Research Institute Inc.

Accessing the course is easy!!

- Go to www.neari.com/trainingcenter/
- Click “Online Training Course”
- Follow the instructions for Balancing Acts

Taking the course is free of charge!!

Do this at home or anywhere you have an internet connection
It takes 2-3 hours to complete but can be taken in multiple segments

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What can you learn from taking the new online course?

- Terminology and definitions
- Best practices to help keep children and vulnerable adults safe
- How to work with other leaders in your congregation to develop safe congregation policies
- How to develop a Code of Ethics and how to use it in the life of the congregation
- Strategies for beginning the conversation with congregational members on this sensitive topic
- How to create Limited Access Agreements and Screening forms using online templates
- Help in determining limits and safe practices for including a former sex offender into your congregation
- Steps to take when you learn that there may be a sex offender in your community

“Wow! What an amazing, thorough, faithful course! A deep thank you to all who had a hand in producing this. I hope the UUA will consider making this not only free and available to our congregational leadership but to other denominations and not-for-profit organizations –heck, anyone who needs the information. What a gift to the world!”

Tandi Rogers Koerger, Program Specialist of the Pacific Northwest District:

Available for a limited time at no cost. Sign up now!

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