

Reporting to Classis

What happens during a Safe Church report to classis depends on the needs of classis. Every classis meeting deserves to have a Safe Church report, which may include information about which churches in the classis have a Safe Church representative and who those representatives are. Membership changes may be approved by classis. Past and upcoming Safe Church team meetings and/or training events should also be noted. And any Safe Church budget needs can be discussed.

A. If a focus on Safe Church Ministry is relatively new, include:

1. General information about Safe Church Ministry

- Fact Sheet – It's a "quick link" on our website homepage
- Videos, etc. – www.crcna.org/SafeChurch/what-safe-church-ministry
- PowerPoint – Overview: www.crcna.org/SafeChurch/what-safe-church-ministry-team

2. If needed – Explore ways to increase Safe Church representation

- Look for information in the first tab of your training notebook
- Contact the Safe Church office for additional ideas and information

3. Report how many churches in the classis have a Safe Church policy (if you don't know, we can get that information for you; it's part of the annual yearbook survey) Remind churches that the team is there to help if needed

- Handouts from training notebook (*Why Safe Church policies?* Etc.)
- PowerPoint – Policy: <http://www.crcna.org/SafeChurch/what-safe-church-ministry-team>

4. Circle of Grace – The program involves children and youth in creating a safe environment. It's one of the best tools available for building up the next generation to grow in faith, in respectful relationships, and in preventing abuse.

- Brochure
- PowerPoint

5. Report on how often the team was called on for assistance – Do this without giving any information about what kind of assistance or what was required – In other words, NO IDENTIFYING INFORMATION. Assistance can include help regarding a difficult situation, providing an educational opportunity, a question about policy, or a question or concern about an issue related to abuse. (For example: "Safe Church team members were called on to assist churches 3 times this quarter.")

B. If the classis is already quite familiar with Safe Church Ministry and churches already have good team representation and good Safe Church policies:

1. **Use classis report time to increase awareness** – Choose a topic such as: domestic violence, healthy boundaries for church leaders, pornography, Bible themes related to abuse, etc. (Use bulletin inserts, PowerPoints, resources in the training notebook, Network blog posts, articles, information on the website, or bring in a guest speaker)
2. **Do something interactive** – Adult learning happens better when people are engaged in the topic. Use a scenario with small group discussion questions, or a “quiz”, to help people understand why Safe Church Ministry is so important.

Increasing awareness doesn't happen by itself; we need to do it. Classis meetings are a great opportunity! The Safe Church office is here to help – don't hesitate to contact us. And THANK YOU for all your efforts!