



## Circle of Faith

Domestic Violence  
Clergy and Faith Leaders Training  
InterAct

For more information, contact:  
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### 2025 Circle of Faith with InterAct

InterAct's Circle of Faith is an initiative, designed to educate, prepare clergy and faith leaders to provide trauma-informed, faith-based counsel to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We invite clergy members or selected faith leaders (Deacon(s) or Deaconess(es) to join us for a six-week course, with a one-day commitment each week. At the completion of the course, each church will be placed on InterAct's referral list if the Lead Pastor elects to partner with InterAct.

## About Circle of Faith

- **Purpose:** Educates and equips faith leaders to provide trauma-informed, faith-based counsel to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.
- **Personal Growth:** Enhances leaders' personal and professional abilities to respond to survivors practically.
- **Program Structure:** A 5-month training program for faith leaders from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds.
- **Monthly Sessions:** Two-hour meetings combining instruction, discussions, and interactive activities on domestic and sexual violence.
- **Focus Areas:** Open dialogue on the impact of violence, trauma-informed skills, and community support strategies.
- **Outcomes:** Graduates become InterAct spiritual advocates and ambassadors of "safe faith communities."
- **Referral List:** Successful participants are added to InterAct's spiritual advocate referral network.

## Vision Statement

To educate and prepare faith leaders to support survivors of domestic and sexual assault by providing trauma-informed, faith-based counsel.

## Our Mission

To foster a cohort of faith leaders who will partner with InterAct by serving as spiritual advocates to survivors.

## Our Goals

To provide faith leaders with a foundational understanding of the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence and spiritual abuse. Develop a cohort of faith leaders who serve as InterAct's spiritual advocates to survivors. Establish more "safe faith communities" within Wake County.

A safe faith community is a faith community that is openly supportive of survivors, actively engages in preventive measures, and is responsive to acts of domestic and sexual violence.

## Course Topics Covered\*

- Circle of Faith, InterAct Overview - What We Do
- Scope of the Problem
- Confidentiality and Expectations
- Domestic Violence 101
- Why do victims stay?
- Signs of Domestic Abuse
- Types of Domestic Violence
- Cycle of Violence
- Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- Spiritual abuse in the context of Intimate Partner Violence
- Therapeutic Separation?
- Supporting Survivors: How can I help?
- Resources: Now What?

*\* Topics are subject to be changed or added.*

## About the Course

- 6-session course (1 per week for 6 weeks) designed for Wake County's faith leaders and led by InterAct and its Circle of Faith. Each class is 2 hours in length and will begin promptly at 6:00 pm and 75% of the classes must be attended to receive credit.
- It is **preferred** only clergy members attend the course. Lead Pastors may select a faith leader - Deacon(s) or Deaconess. *(A separate class for congregants/lay persons is available per request through InterAct)*
- At the completion of the course, each church will be placed on InterAct's referral list, if the Lead Pastor elects to partner with InterAct.
- The Lead Pastor of the church may select one person to be the liaison between InterAct.
- The church referral list will remain confidential.

- Prior to partnering with InterAct, a confidentiality agreement must be signed and returned to InterAct.
- At the end of the course a certificate of attendance (for referral) will be provided **(NOT)** a certification for domestic violence.

*For additional information and to learn how to schedule your group for the training, please get in touch with Cindy Faison at [cindyf@interactofwake.org](mailto:cindyf@interactofwake.org)*