

OPERATION EQUIP

HOPE AND GRACE CHAPTERS

Purpose:

Operation Equip helps churches say the “A” word redemptively through *Hope and Grace Chapters*. Each *Chapter* has four objectives – that the church may become:

- Empowered by Truth
- Healed by Grace
- Champions for Life
- A Safe Place to Run.

What is a Hope and Grace Chapter?

It is a coordinated effort in a church by a volunteer *Chapter Ambassador* and committed volunteer *Members* to accomplish the Purpose.

Who are Chapter Ambassadors?

Those who represent *Operation Equip’s Hope and Grace Chapter* to their church coordinate the forming of a *Chapter* and oversee *Members* in fulfillment of its Purpose. An *Ambassador* or *Co-Ambassador* will fit into the following criteria. (Mandatory criteria are marked with “o”.) Women or Men who:

- are age 18+, unless overseeing a *Chapter* in a High School or Middle School.
- have lost a child to abortion, repented of their part in it (if any), have been through purposeful healing, and desire to share this hope with others.
- have chosen life for their children in difficult or any circumstances.
- have a compassionate heart for people experiencing difficult or untimely pregnancies and desire to support, disciple, and encourage them without condemnation.
- have a compassionate heart, with no condemnation, for those who have lost children to abortion and desire that they may find forgiveness and healing and bring testimony to all about the harm of abortion and transformational healing.

Who are Chapter Members?

Chapter Ambassadors and anyone in a church, including teens, who support the work of the *Chapter* according to its Purpose.

What are the requirements for a Chapter?

A church can become a *Hope and Grace Chapter* by committing to begin working on at least one of the first three objectives immediately (See *BECOMING A “CERTIFIED SAFE CHURCH”*) with the goal to begin addressing all of them over the next 12-24 months. By fulfilling the first three objectives, a *Chapter* automatically accomplishes the fourth, making your church a safe place to run, although there are additional actions listed for this objective. The *Chapter*, with the lead pastor’s permission, also agrees to

maintain these objectives over the long-haul. Commitment to uphold *Hope and Grace International's* Statement of Faith, Statement of Principles, and Commitment to Godly Conduct is a requirement for each chapter member and overseeing pastor.

What is the structure of a Chapter?

A *Chapter* is coordinated by a *Hope and Grace Chapter Ambassador* who communicates and works with a supervising pastor to oversee the *Chapter*. This pastor's responsibility is for accountability and guidance over the *Ambassador* and *Chapter*, not to do the work other than what requires a pastor.

The *Ambassador's* responsibility is to coordinate a team of volunteers (including the *Ambassador*), using their spiritual gifts, expertise, and skills to accomplish the objectives. The *Ambassador* is the liaison between *Operation Equip* and their church. If the *Chapter* is an *Outreach Chapter* in an institution (middle or high school, college, workplace, etc.), that *Outreach Chapter* operates under the authority of a church *Chapter*. This is so that an *Outreach Chapter* is an outreach of the church, not a separate para-church ministry. The *Outreach Chapter Ambassador* reports to and works with their church *Chapter Ambassador*.



How does a church qualify as a “Certified Safe Church”?

Once a *Chapter* has begun addressing at least two actions from each of the first three objectives (See *BECOMING A “CERTIFIED SAFE CHURCH”*), that church or institution will qualify to be certified as a *Safe Church* and will be allowed to use the *Operation Equip “Certified Safe Church”* logo.

