



HOPE AND GRACE PARTNERSHIP GUIDE

Mission:

Equipping the local church to become a safe haven that **PROACTIVELY** champions Biblical sexuality and life and **REDEMPTIVELY** heals those wounded by sexual sin or abortion.

It helps churches say the “A” word redemptively through *Hope and Grace Partnerships*. We have four objectives – to equip the church to address pregnancy and abortion redemptively to become:

- EMPOWERED BY TRUTH
- HEALED BY GRACE
- CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE
- A SAFE HAVEN

What is a Hope and Grace Partnership?

It is a coordinated effort in a church by a *Commissioned Lead Ambassador* and other available ambassadors in the congregation to accomplish the Mission.

Who are Commissioned Lead Ambassadors?

Those who represent *the Hope and Grace Partnership* to their church coordinate the forming of it and oversee other ambassadors in fulfillment of its Mission. A *Commissioned Lead Ambassador* will fit into the following criteria. (Mandatory criteria are marked with “o”.) Women or Men who:

- are age 18+, unless overseeing a *Partnership* 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 necessity of transformational healing.
- have completed the **Get Equipped** course and other classes and requirements for commissioning.

Who are Ambassadors?

Anyone in a church, including teens, collectively referred to as a *Hope and Grace Partnership Team*, who support the work of the *Partnership* according to its Mission.

What are the requirements for a *Hope and Grace Partnership*?

A church can become a *Hope and Grace Partner* 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 that are feasible over the next 12-24 months. By fulfilling the first three objectives, a *Partner Church* automatically accomplishes the fourth, making your church a safe place to run, although there are additional actions listed for this objective. The *Commissioned Lead Ambassador*, with the senior or supervising pastor's permission, also agrees to maintain these objectives over the long-haul, repeating those that are necessary. Commitment to uphold *Hope and Grace International's* Statement of Faith, Statement of Principles, and Commitment to Godly Conduct is a requirement for each *Commissioned Lead Ambassador* and overseeing pastor/leader.

What is the structure of a *Hope and Grace Partnership*?

A *Partnership* is coordinated by a *Hope and Grace Commissioned Lead Ambassador* who communicates and works with a supervising pastor or ministry leader to oversee the *Partnership*. This pastor's/leader's responsibility is for accountability and guidance over the *Commissioned Lead Ambassador* and all ambassadors, not to do the work other than what requires a pastor/leader. The *Partnership* acts as a task force to accomplish the Mission.

The *Commissioned Lead Ambassador's* responsibility is to coordinate a team of ambassador servant leaders, using their spiritual gifts, expertise, and skills to accomplish the objectives. The *Commissioned Lead Ambassador* is the liaison between *Hope and Grace International* and their church. An *Outreach Partnership* is one established in an institution (middle or high school, college, workplace, etc.), that operates under the authority of a *Church Partnership*. This is so that an *Outreach Partnership* is an outreach of the church, not a separate para-church ministry. The *Outreach Ambassador* reports to and works with their *Church Lead Ambassador*.



How does a church qualify as a "CERTIFIED SAFECHURCH"?

Once a *Partnering Church* has accomplished the following actions, they will qualify to become a **CERTIFIED SAFECHURCH** and will be allowed to use the **CERTIFIED SAFECHURCH** logo. The church and their areas of expertise and activities will also be included on a **SAFECHURCH** website for people in the community to find when in need. (See **SAFECHURCH PROJECT** for more information)

- Minimum 2 people have completed the **Get Equipped** and **Be the SOLUTION** courses and completed all requirements to be commissioned as **Hope and Grace Advocates†**

- Minimum 1 person has completed requirements to be commissioned as a ***Hope and Grace Ambassador***†
- The church has accomplished at least one action from each of the first three objectives (See *BECOMING A "CERTIFIED SAFE CHURCH"*) with a plan to accomplish more each year



† See **SAFECHURCH Definitions** page