

## BECOMING A “CERTIFIED SAFECHURCH<sup>™</sup>”

Pastors are only responsible for activities listed under “How Pastors/Ministry Leaders Can Help” for each objective below, delegating staff or volunteers to assist you. Pastors/Ministry Leaders can then commission staff, lay leaders, and church members to action in overseeing the remaining activities. Experts can be brought in to do some of the teaching. Your *Hope and Grace Commissioned Ambassador* is responsible to oversee the accomplishment of each action and report these to you and Hope and Grace Global. You may come up with additional actions unique for your congregation.

### OBJECTIVES

#### EMPOWERED BY TRUTH

##### How Pastors/Ministry Leaders Can Help

- Endorse the **Get EQUIPPED** course for yourself and your staff, men, women, college and singles, youth, and parents of youth to learn about all aspects of abortion and its trauma, effects on the church, and how the church can respond proactively and redemptively.
- Endorse the **Be the SOLUTION** course for yourself and others as part of becoming a SAFECHURCH.
- Apologize to your congregation that the church (as a whole) has not done a good job (for the most part) of coming alongside moms and dads in untimely pregnancies, then we weren’t there for them and even judged them for their abortions. Ask forgiveness.
- Find out what the Bible says about the sanctity of human life and teach about it or bring in experts to do so.
- Endorse the need for moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have lost children (or grandchildren, siblings, other loved ones) to abortion or been involved with it in some way to go through purposeful healing.\*
- Teach that abortion healing involves far more than forgiveness from God, mainly the need to grieve the loss.\*
- Invite your pastor friends to get on board with you and join the SAFECHURCH movement.

##### How Church Members Can Help

- Facilitate **Get EQUIPPED** classes in the areas where you participate or minister – women’s, men’s, college and singles, youth, parents of youth, etc.
- Facilitate **Be the SOLUTION** classes for those who want to become Ambassadors and Advocates.
- Host discussions with staff and church members about current abortion laws and how the church can best respond.
- Host pro-life apologetics gatherings to teach staff and church members how to engage the community in redemptive conversations about abortion and life.
- Bring in experts on sexual risk avoidance (abstinence) for your young people and singles.
- Educate the parents of your youth on the dangers of abortion, birth control, and risky behaviors.
- Have a pro-active comprehensive conversation with your youth about sex outside marriage, teen-parenting, adoption, and abortion. Teach their parents to do this also.

\*Actions that are highlighted are included in more than one category. To be considered a *Certified Safe Church*, these cannot be used more than once total in counting actions to qualify for the one minimum per category. (*OperationEQUIP* is a project of *Hope And Grace International Inc.*)

- Teach biblical values regarding sexuality to adults and youth to re-program their minds from worldly values. Teach young people, boys and girls separately, about the design of their bodies and how God designed them for His purposes. (**Get EQUIPPED** teaches these things)
- Host an event to teach about abortion and abortion trauma in your community.
- Host a **SAFECHURCH** workshop or conference for pastors and lay leaders from your church and other churches with the assistance of Hope and Grace Global.

## HEALED BY GRACE

### How Pastors/Ministry Leaders Can Help

- Endorse the need for moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have lost children (or grandchildren, siblings, other loved ones) to abortion or been involved with it in some way to go through purposeful healing.\*
- Teach that abortion healing involves far more than forgiveness from God, mainly the need to grieve the loss.\*
- Invite women and men who have been through an abortion healing or sexual healing Bible study to share their stories with the congregation or specific church populations.

### How Church Members Can Help

- Demonstrate compassion for women and men who have lost children to abortion and encourage others to do the same.
- Invite women and men in your congregation who have lost children to abortion to a healing Bible study. (Hope and Grace Global can guide you in this.)
- Offer confidential sexual healing Bible studies for adults and youth. (Contact Hope and Grace Global for materials and training)
- Gain commitment from your best confidential prayer warriors to cover those who are going through healing throughout their Bible study (usually 9-10 weeks).
- Engage your creative members in making gifts for Bible study participants.

## CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE

### How Pastors/Ministry Leaders Can Help

- Have your congregation support your local pro-life pregnancy center financially.
- Teach the importance of supporting new moms and dads (and their parents) in untimely pregnancies to save lives and disciple and mentor them in the Lord.
- Demonstrate compassion for women and men in untimely pregnancies and encourage others to do the same.

### How Church Members Can Help

- Put racks in your women's and men's restrooms with pamphlets, fliers, and business cards that direct people to pregnancy and abortion healing resources in your church and local pregnancy center.

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- At least once a month, include info on church and pregnancy center and resources in your bulletin and church newsletter.
- Engage [Embrace Grace](http://embracegrace.com/) (embracegrace.com/) and let them equip your congregation to provide a refuge and spiritual support to women with unplanned pregnancies.
- Offer [Making Life Disciples](http://care-net.org/why-making-life-disciples) (care-net.org/why-making-life-disciples) interactive online course as an adult/youth education or small group opportunity annually.
- Find people in your congregation who are willing to open their homes to pregnant girls/women who have no place to go. (Hope and Grace International Inc can offer guidance and parameters for safety and success)
- Organize a team of people who can support and encourage those who open their homes to pregnant girls/women.
- Host a community shower for your local pregnancy center to provide them with new baby clothing and paraphernalia and maternity clothing for their clients.
- Participate in a [40 Days for Life](http://40daysforlife.com/) (40daysforlife.com/) campaign.
- Purchase a house and turn it into a safe home for unwed mothers. Hire house parents and staff to run it. Task you congregation with funding it or partner with other churches.
- Support your local pregnancy center with volunteer, or if there is not one nearby, launch one.

## A SAFE HAVEN

### How Church Members Can Help

- Organize Prayer Warriors to cover all objectives on a regular basis and concerns that arise as actions are carried out, always maintaining strict confidentiality.
- Equip your staff, lay leaders, and every parishioner above the age of 10 with pregnancy center and abortion recovery resources so they can direct others to them.
- Equip the parents of your youth to be a safe place to run if/when their kids find themselves in an untimely pregnancy.
- Make it clear regularly in multiple formats to youth, parents, singles, and the entire congregation that your church is a safe (non-judgmental and supportive) place to run in an untimely pregnancy or abortion trauma. List your commissioned *Hope and Grace Advocates* names and contact info in your bulletin and on your website.
- Pray regularly for workers in your nearest abortion clinic that they will be convicted of what they are doing and leave the industry.
- Be prepared to direct [former abortion clinic workers](http://abortionworker.com/) (abortionworker.com/) to healing Bible studies and employment opportunities and welcome them into your church community. When they join you, support them with love and compassion.
- In your children's and youth ministries, stress the value of every child and teen on a regular basis. Make sure every one of them knows they are loved and can come to any staff or lay person for assurance.
- Raise funds for strategically placed billboards in your city advertising the your SAFECHURCH and other safe churches. (Invite other churches to join you in this!)

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