
Windham Association
Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ
Boundary Awareness Training Policy

Purpose

Boundary Awareness Training (BAT) is a professional development opportunity for ministers. It is part of the education and dialogue toward healthy ministerial relationships, professional ethics and self-care. Its goal is for participants to be exposed to ideas and concepts around appropriate relational boundaries within their ministry.

Who Must Comply With the Policy?

Any minister who is authorized or seeking authorization from the Windham Association will be required to take Boundary Awareness Training (BAT) every five years. This includes ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers, members in discernment and those seeking dual standing and privilege of call. All persons seeking ordination must complete the required boundary training before ordination.

Retirees who are ministering in any capacity beyond occasional pulpit supply must also meet this requirement. "Ministering in any capacity" includes regular pulpit supply, consulting, officiating at weddings, officiating at funerals, visitations, pastoral care, and any activity where one is named as a minister.

Acceptance of Other BAT Programs as Authorized Substitutions

Persons who have completed a Boundary Awareness Training class comparable to the ones offered in the Connecticut Conference may provide the Windham Association Council with a certificate of completion from the class to fulfill this requirement.

A minister transferring into the WA may seek a waiver from the WA Council by providing written proof of completion of an equivalent program taken to fulfill a requirement within the last five years.

Record Keeping of Compliance

It shall be the responsibility of the WA Registrar to maintain the records of the deadlines and qualification dates of all of its authorized ministers.

Consequences of Non-compliance

Each authorized minister is responsible for assuring that s/he fulfills this requirement in a timely way. If an authorized minister has not completed the BAT requirement a year before her/his deadline, the WA Registrar will notify her/him of the dates of upcoming BAT programs and remind him/her of the details of this requirement and the consequences of non-compliance.

If an authorized minister is not in compliance with this requirement, the WA Council will engage in a Situational Support Consultation with said minister. Suspension of ministerial standing may be a consequence of this Consultation. The UCC Manual on Ministry details the consequences of suspension, such as inability to circulate a profile, contribute to a UCC pension, or claim a housing allowance.