

**A Resource To Assist Ministers In The Awareness And Prevention
Of Ministerial Sexual Misconduct**
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ABSTRACT

Although ministers are not the only people who commit sexual misconduct, when they do, special significance is attached. Ministerial sexual misconduct is a moral, theological, ethical, and practical problem. Even though sexual temptation is common to all, there appear to be unique pressures on those within ministry that contribute to ministerial sexual misconduct—pressures that if recognized and addressed properly can assist in the prevention of sexual impropriety.

Consequently, the purpose of the project was to develop and present a seminar to assist ministers in proactively addressing the problem of ministerial sexual misconduct. The two-hour *Sexual Integrity in Ministry Seminar*, with accompanying resource materials, sought to do the following: (1) increase awareness of the problem of ministerial sexual misconduct; (2) inform ministers of unique vocational vulnerabilities contributing to the problem; (3) educate ministers in how to recognize and respond properly to the warning signs; (4) equip ministers with resources to assist in the prevention of impropriety; and (5) encourage ministers how to respond appropriately should it occur.

The seminar was presented to eighty-three ministerial students at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, as well as to local church leaders, denominational leaders, and educators from Assemblies of God institutions of higher education. The project design involved the use of a pretest and posttest instrument for gaining quantitative data as to whether significant awareness had occurred as a result of the seminar. An additional

postsession evaluation was administered to provide specific feedback on the effectiveness of the seminar delivery and usefulness of the seminar resources.

The findings of the project confirm that highly significant learning occurred in the lives of those attending the seminar. Thus, the project was successful, demonstrating the overall effectiveness of the materials developed and implemented in the field test. The project has resulted in a resource that will benefit the seminar participants personally, the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary as an institution, as well as other believers in the kingdom of God. It is believed that the project provides a valuable resource to assist in the prevention of ministerial sexual misconduct.