RESTORING WHOLENESS

Bridge Builders

QUICK-START *Guide*

CHUCH STARTER KIT

Preparing Your Church for a Compassionate Initial Response

The Church Starter Kit helps pastors and trusted ministry leaders move from awareness to a prepared response when someone affected by abortion asks for support. You do not need to launch a complete ministry at once. Begin by clarifying what your church can offer, preparing the people who will receive inquiries, and making the next step clear.

Use this guide with a small team of trusted church leaders.



Prepare → Respond → Make It Clear

Prepare Your Leadership →
Prepare to Receive Inquiries →
Make the Initial Response Clear

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PREPARE YOUR *Leadership*

Begin by gathering a few trusted leaders and establishing a shared understanding of your church's role.

Use these resources:

- Leadership Conversation Guide
- Designated Care Contact Planning Sheet

What to do:

- Review the Church Awareness Kit materials and the purpose of the Starter Kit.
- Hold a leadership conversation using the Leadership Conversation Guide.
- Identify a primary care contact and a backup person.
- Clarify pastoral oversight and the support your church can responsibly offer.

Key question:

What can our church faithfully offer now, and who is prepared to receive an inquiry?

Prepare



RESPOND TO *Inquiries*

Equip the designated contact to welcome someone, listen without pressure, respect privacy, and explain available support.

Use these resources:

- First Conversation Response Guide
- Privacy, Confidentiality & Care Planning Worksheet
- Support & Referral Resource Template

What to do:

- Review the First Conversation Response Guide with the designated contact.
- Complete the privacy worksheet to clarify how information will be handled and what confidentiality will and will not include.
- Identify appropriate support and referral resources.
- Confirm that the designated contact knows when to involve a pastor or connect someone with additional help.

Respond



Key question:

If someone reaches out, how will we welcome them, protect their privacy, and help them find appropriate support?

MAKE INITIAL RESPONSE *Clear*

Create a simple pathway so a person who asks for help knows what to expect and how to receive care.

Use these resources:

- Initial Church Care Pathway Worksheet
- Church Communication & Help-Access Checklist

Key question:

If someone responds to our invitation, will they know whom to contact and what will happen next?

What to do:

- Map how an inquiry will be received, who will respond, and how a next step will be offered.
- Confirm contact information, available support, and referral arrangements.
- Review the communication samples from the Church Awareness Kit.
- Choose one appropriate way to make help visible—such as a discreet help-card location, a website description, or a brief announcement.



BEFORE *Invitation* SHARING AN

Before making an announcement or sharing resources with the congregation, confirm that:

- A designated contact and backup are identified.
- The contact person understands the First Conversation Response Guide.
- Privacy practices and the limits of confidentiality have been clarified.
- The support described is currently available.
- Referral information is accurate and appropriate.
- Pastoral oversight and safeguarding procedures are understood.
- Contact information on all materials is correct.

If one or more of these items is not ready, make that preparation your church's next faithful step.

Your First Faithful Step:

Choose one manageable action from this guide:

- Hold a leadership conversation.
- Identify a designated care contact.
- Review the First Conversation Response Guide.
- Complete the privacy planning worksheet.
- Prepare a referral-resource list.
- Map your initial care pathway.
- Review communication materials before sharing them.

Our Church's Next Faithful Step

Action: _____
Person Responsilbe: _____
Target Date: _____
Support or Preparation Needed:
_____
_____
_____

Need guidance?
Visit Church Readiness to review your preparedness, identify remaining needs, and explore consultation, partnership, or facilitator training.

A Prayer for Church Leaders

Lord Jesus, give our leaders humility, wisdom, and compassionate hearts. Help us prepare wisely, protect the privacy of those who seek help, and offer a clear invitation to Your mercy and restoration. May our church be a place where people can find welcome, truth spoken in love, and hope for healing. Amen.

