

Empowering faith leaders to save lives from suicide

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."



Dear colleague,

Sooner or later, suicide is something all faith leaders will confront. Maybe a member of your congregation will experience thoughts of suicide, or will come to you with concerns about someone else. Perhaps you'll be called on to perform a memorial service for someone who has tragically taken their own life.

When these events happen, what do we as clergy and faith leaders say and do? How can we promote life and hope within our churches and faith communities? As a seminary professor and a retired US Army Chaplain, I've spent my career exploring these questions. LivingWorks Faith is a project born of that search, and I am honored to have worked with an outstanding team of researchers, clergy, survivor families, and program developers to bring it all together.

As Christians, part of our calling is to honor and protect life. When it comes to saving lives from suicide, the guidance we seek can be found in Scripture, supported by proven best practices in psychological wellness and suicide prevention.

I invite you to join us by experiencing LivingWorks Faith—a comprehensive program that will provide effective competencies around suicide prevention, intervention, and bereavement within your faith community. Together, we can bring life and light to those who are struggling.

In the spirit of hope,

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Chaplain (Colonel–retired) Glen Bloomstrom, M.Div, M.S., M.S.S. LivingWorks Faith Program Developer

What you'll learn in LivingWorks Faith



Prevent suicide by promoting hope and life in your congregation

LivingWorks Faith begins with an exploration of what Scripture tells us about suicide and how we can prevent it. With skills- and story-based curriculum, it provides ways to support your faith community by building hope and promoting life. You'll learn to lead by example in creating an environment where people feel comfortable both seeking and offering help.



Intervene in the moment of crisis

When someone needs immediate help, what should faith leaders do? You'll learn skills to recognize when someone is struggling and take action to keep them safe. Each LivingWorks Faith course includes access to LivingWorks Start, our evidence-based skill-building program featuring simulations and practice. Detailed information and stories help situate these skills in a faith community context.



Support the community's needs after a suicide

If a suicide takes place within the community, a faith leader's role is more important than ever. LivingWorks Faith provides tools and guidelines so you effectively minister to a bereaved family and community with sensitivity, comfort, and hope. After this section, you'll be invited to complete a simulation that brings all your skills together and prepares you to apply them in your congregation.

LivingWorks Faith at a glance

- 5-6 hour online training course for Christian faith leaders of all denominations
- Evidence-based curriculum rooted in the wisdom of Scripture
- Teaches suicide care skills for prevention, intervention, and postvention in faith communities
- Provides insight, stories, and guidance from over a dozen faith leaders
- Includes simulations to help practice and retain your skills

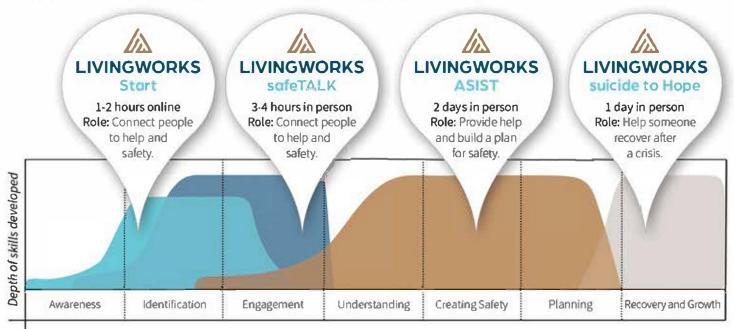
Who should take LivingWorks Faith?

LivingWorks Faith is intended for all faith leaders—vocational and bi-vocational clergy as well as those who lead non-traditional ministries and chaplaincies—who want to learn to more effectively prevent, intervene, and minister around the issue of suicide in their congregations. LivingWorks Faith currently features content for Christian faith leaders, and versions for Jewish and Muslim faith leaders are scheduled for future development.

Register and get started today at www.CAREForce.us/faith

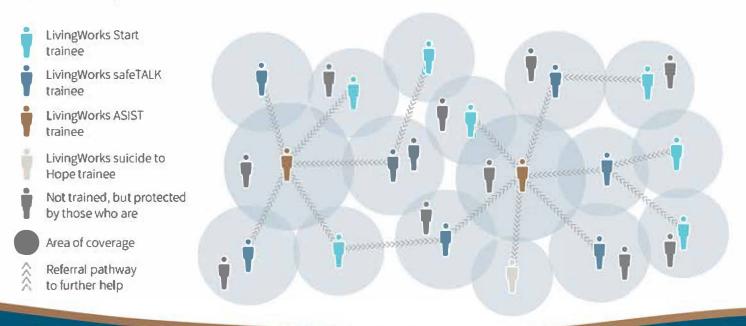
Building safer faith communities with LivingWorks programs

After LivingWorks Faith, what's next? LivingWorks' intervention-focused training programs can bring even greater safety to your faith community by empowering everyone to play a role. LivingWorks ASIST is ideal for ministry leaders who want to learn in-depth intervention skills to support someone in crisis. Two shorter programs, LivingWorks Start and LivingWorks safeTALK, help train ministry teams, volunteers, and members of the congregation so they can recognize when others are struggling and connect them to help.



Continuum of skills to help protect someone from suicide

The result is a "network of safety" that provides widespread coverage throughout the congregation and into the local community.



CAREForce can bring this training to any faith community in the United States, Canada, and throughout the world, To get started, contact CAREForce: