**Training Introduction Notes**

1. First of all, thank you. Thank you for being ministers of the church giving in so many ways and thank you for taking the time to complete the online modules and for your presence here today.
2. As we begin our time together we want to remember a few things:
   1. The trainers are here to facilitate a conversation with you. We are not experts on all aspects of this material; rather we are fellow learners in this endeavor to create safe cultures in our churches. The trainers are here to help the group share its wisdom. There are many of you who work professionally as therapists, teachers, social workers, child care providers and may be required to take Continuing Education units on the topics we will be exploring. Please share your knowledge with the group.
   2. In order to honor our time commitment, we have a tight schedule today. We will keep to our time but please know that this conversation is just the beginning, it will scratch the surface of the depth of these topics. As you go back to your communities, vestries, Sunday schools, etc. we encourage you to continue this conversation with each other as well as considering meeting with your clergy or wardens to plan how to keep this dialogue going across your church community.
   3. Today’s material doesn’t happen in a bubble, statistically speaking, there are 1 in 5 people in this room who are directly affected by abuse, and many more of us who are indirectly affected. These topics are difficult, let us hold each other with compassion as we speak from our experience. If something surfaces for you during this training, please feel free to take a break if you need some space or reach out to one of the trainers for support.
   4. Please remember that our gathering here is sacred and we make a covenant of confidentiality with each other. While we want you to continue the dialogue started here in general, specific sharing about individuals or congregations today should not be repeated outside of this gathering. As an aspect of this covenant of confidentiality we ask you to please turn off your cell phones – it is important that this space is not made “porous” through social media. Please do not text, post to Facebook, etc. We want to be here with each other, and only with each other.
3. If group is small enough, go around the room for introductions – name, church and town