



November 24, 2023

Dear Church Administrator,

We hope this message finds you well. We would like to inform you of a significant update regarding the Rio Texas Conference safe ministry certification process for individuals responsible for the supervision and care of children, youth, and vulnerable adults in our churches and organizations.

Based on valuable feedback from our conference, in 2024 we are introducing an asynchronous, go-at-your-own-pace, certification process. This new method aims to provide more flexibility when completing the required three-step certification process. The process will be the same for initial certifications and all renewals. There will no longer be a distinction between certification and recertification. This updated process will be available starting January 1st, 2024, and will be accessible to all applicants via their Safe Gatherings Dashboard. You can find more information about this adapted certification process at <https://riotexas.org/safesteps> beginning Dec. 1, 2023. We will also be offering informational webinars for church administrators. Watch for updates as these get scheduled.

It is essential that current leaders in ministry with children, youth, and vulnerable adults continue to complete their certifications and recertifications with the current process through the end of 2023. This ensures leaders in your community remain certified and in compliance with our safety policy through 2023.

As we move into 2024, we must ensure all individuals in need of certification or recertification are aware of this update. We kindly request your assistance as we inform all staff and volunteers in our conference of this new process. Please continue emphasizing the importance of individuals completing certification in a timely manner based on your church's need for their leadership. This will guarantee leaders in your community remain certified for ministry with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and support in relaying this information. Should you or any members of your congregation have any questions or concerns as you prepare to support your leaders in 2024, please contact The Trusted Team at trustedfacilitator@riotexas.org.

Thank you for your dedication and efforts to the safety of our communities.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen and the The Trusted con Confianza safe ministry team