

Presenter Characteristics

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Important presenter characteris­tics include:

* A broad base of theological, ecclesiological and denominational knowledge. Ideally, trainers are either theologically educated or have had paid ministry experience.   Presenters should have clarity about their comfort level with the theological perspectives and range in the room and should only train in contexts where they have that familiarity.
* A broad base of knowledge, expertise and experience with mental health and suicide prevention.  Ideally, trainers are either mental health professionals or have worked extensively in suicide prevention.
* Training in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST).  It is nearly certain that persons at risk of suicide will be attending your trainings.  You need to have the confidence that comes from the ASIST training in order to ensure their safety.  Nothing could send a more confusing message than a workshop leader who is frightened to talk about suicide in an intervention context.
* Good presentation skills and a high level of comfort before a group of lay and professional leaders.
* Ability to engage persons in the group and draw them in as participants.
* Authenticity and transparency regarding your own experiences with suicidal desperation that does not distract from participant experience but enhances it.
* Compassion for those who are suffering.
* Recognition of the complexity of suicidal desperation and a good handle on your own scope of practice.
* A portfolio of stories, yours or others, that can serve as real life examples of the points you are making.