



Sacred and Safe: Building Capacity of Faith Communities to Address Gender-Based Violence

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59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

PARALLEL EVENT

MARCH 10, 2015

2:30 PM

ARMENIAN CONVENTION
CENTER, GUILD ROOM



OUR VISION: *Alaska, free from domestic and sexual violence*

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is a state agency tasked with making sure Alaskans who are victims of or effected by domestic violence or sexual assault receive services. The Council was created by state statute in 1981.

CDVSA provides funding, training and support for the system of statewide local shelter and rape crisis programs providing crisis intervention; for prevention services; and for programs to hold those who commit violence accountable.

In recent years the Council has put tremendous focus on several areas that include changing social norms around violence. The Council's prevention and education efforts have focused on changing attitudes, involving men in the issues and on increasing education. We began our work with clergy through the Shepherds' Care Forums in 2014.

ALASKA STATISTICS

Area: 663,300 square miles

Population: 735,601

Rates of Violence Against Women: 58 out of every 100 Alaskan women have suffered from intimate partner violence, sexual violence or both in their lifetime (Alaska Victimization Survey 2010)

CDVSA STRUCTURE

Nine members: four public members appointed by the Governor-one is a designated rural member-plus the Commissioners of the state departments of Public Safety, Law, Education and Early Development, Corrections and Health and Social Services

WELCOME

On behalf of the
Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
we thank

H.E. Mr. Charles Thembani Ntwaagae;

the Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations;

the Reverend Mark Koenig;

the Presbyterian UN;

the Rev. Diane C. Smalley; and,

the Domestic Violence Work Group; Social Justice & Peacemaking Ministry Team of
the Presbytery of Detroit

for allowing us to join their efforts in presenting a parallel event during the Beijing +
20 celebration

*Sacred and Safe: Building Capacity of Faith Communities to Address Gender-Based
Violence*

We extend our thanks to the event speakers who are willing to share their day-to-day
work with us and their aspirations of creating a space in their faith communities
where victims are safe and resources are freely shared.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our hope that one day men and women, boys
and girls will know what it is like to be violence free in their intimate relationships.

Thank you to our audience—you are change-makers and necessary to our collective
success.

Reverend Richard Irwin, Chair

Lauree Morton, Executive Director



*SACRED AND SAFE: BUILDING CAPACITY OF FAITH
COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE*

The Empty Chair Introduction:

Reverend Diane C. Smalley

Chair of Social Justice & Peacemaking Ministry Team, Presbytery of Detroit and
Dr. Margaret L. Betts, Ms. Shannon Beck & Ms. Sharon Gibbons

Panelists:

Minister Jonathan Betts Fields
Student, Harvard Divinity School

The Reverend Richard Irwin
Chair, Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The Reverend Dr. Lisa B. Whitehead
Founder, Victims in the Sanctuary

The Challenge

Ms. Robina Niaz
Executive Director Turning Point

Respondents

The Reverend Rick Santos
The Reverend Dr. Marie Foturne

Sending Forth

The Reverend Daniel Michalek
Rabbi Lisa Gelber

Welcome

Sheila Louder
Presbyterian Women
Churchwide Coordinating
Team Vice Moderator Justice
and Peace Concerns.

Moderator

Ms. Donna Thompson Training
Coordinator, South Carolina
Coalition Against Domestic
Violence and Sexual Assault

MESSAGE FROM REVEREND MARK KOENIG AND MR. RYAN SMITH

On behalf of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we express our profound gratitude to all those involved in organizing and presenting the parallel event *Sacred and Safe: Building Capacity of Faith Communities to Address Gender-Based Violence*.

We are particularly grateful to the Rev. Diane C. Smalley and the Domestic Violence Work Group; Social Justice & Peacemaking Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Detroit and to Ms. Sheila Louder, Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace Concerns of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to the other members of the planning team for their hard work organizing this event.

We are equally thankful for the speakers at this event. They remind us that faith communities are engaged in the effort to end gender-based violence in significant ways. Their presentations, grounded in their work, speak to important roles that faith communities can play in establishing and maintaining sacred and safe environments to discuss and act towards the elimination of gender based violence. They provide examples of how faith communities are work to end gender-based violence in partnership with civil society coalitions, with local communities, governments and academic collaboratives will be shared as best practices.

Presbyterians affirm, and seek to practice, that people work best when we work in partnership. *Sacred and Safe: Building Capacity of Faith Communities to Address Gender-Based Violence* lives out this affirmation in several important ways. It demonstrates that faith communities have essential roles to play as we address gender-based violence. It demonstrates that while faith communities, governments and civil society have distinct roles to play in ending gender-based violence, creative partnerships enhance that effort significantly. The event itself is an exercise in partnership of a variety of groups across the United States. We are humbled and grateful to have been partners in this significant event.



The Reverend Mark Koenig



Mr. Ryan Smith

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PURPOSE

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

To nurture and faith through prayer and Bible study,

To support the mission of the church worldwide,

To work for justice and peace,

To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witness to the promise of God's kingdom.

Presbyterian Women and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Presbyterian Women (PW) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) involvement with The Commission began March 2006, a vision of Lillian Oats, serving as PW Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) Vice Moderator Justice and Peace Concerns. The first group of four (4) Presbyterian Women to attend the Commission including Lillian were Dee Matthews, moderator, Presbyterian Women Presbytery of New York; Judy Wason, co-moderator, Presbyterian Women Presbytery of Hudson River, NY; and Magdalene Lewis, member Presbyterian Women, Presbytery New York City.

Each year the PW contingent of the PC (USA)'s delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women has grown, some years to as many as seventy women. Louise Davidson, PW CCT Vice Moderator Justice and Peace Concerns (2006-2009) personal interest in this project facilitated PW's continued participation at the Commission creating a format and template for registering women. Due to space constraints at the United Nations in 2014 and 2015 the number was reduced to forty (40) women.

Sheila Louder currently leads the PW delegation at the Commission in her role as Presbyterian Women Churchwide Coordinating Team Vice Moderator Justice and Peace Concerns. Discussions about the work of The Commission is continued through the justice and peace roundtable conference call introduced by Sheila to the PW CCT to help PW strengthen their justice and peace efforts and education about priority themes addressed at The Commission. Sheila facilitated along with Meagan Manas, PW staff in 2013 the first PC (USA) parallel event at the Commission. We thank Rev. Diane Smalley for facilitating the 2015 parallel event at this years' Commission.



Ms. Sheila Louder
Presbyterian Women Churchwide
Coordinating Team Vice Moderator
Justice and Peace Concerns



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

Under the leadership of the Gender Based Violence Work Group, Social Justice & Ministry Team, and in partnership with the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations, and a planning team of dedicated experts from across the United States, two important events will be held during the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Both events address gender based violence and explore capacity building interventions that may be employed by civil society entities across the world.

The Presbytery of Detroit joins Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations in thanking the team that planned the two events: *“Safe and Sacred: Building the Capacity of Faith Communities to Address Gender Based Violence”* and *“Real Talk/Real Action: Engaging Boys and Men in Prevention and Intervention Strategies that Address Gender Based Violence.”*

As Executive Presbyter, I am pleased that one of the Presbytery of Detroit congregations, namely First Presbyterian Church in Brighton, Michigan will be highlighted for the role the church played in the development of LACASA. Over thirty years ago, a few members of First Presbyterian Church joined with other concerned citizens who felt called to respond to the growing need to provide services to persons impacted by domestic and sexual violence. From humble beginnings,

LACASA was born, and today offers comprehensive services to hundreds of survivors at no charge. It is my hope that’s our presbytery’s team will help all of the congregations in our presbytery to reach out and show pastoral care to those in their congregations and communities who have been affected by incidents of gender based violence.

The Presbytery of Detroit continues to salute His Excellency Charles Thembani Ntwaagae and the Reverend W. Mark Koenig for their shared leadership in the implementation of side events (2013, 2015) which explore the necessity of men’s shared leadership in the eradication and prevention of all forms of violence against women, girls and other vulnerable populations.



Reverend Dr. Allen D. Timm
Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Detroit
Presbyterian Church (USA)



MESSAGE FROM LACASA

We are honored to be a part of this visionary initiative and to support the exploration of global solutions that will help eradicate interpersonal violence.

LACASA Center is a nonprofit organization located in Livingston County, Michigan, USA. We serve victims and survivors of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault who live in our 585-square-mile county, set in the state's south-central region.

The **First Presbyterian Church** of Brighton, Michigan, played a pivotal role in the humble beginnings of LACASA Center. In 1979, a group of concerned citizens from our community started a grassroots organization to help victims of domestic violence. The First Presbyterian Church, located in our county, stepped forward and offered this group office space to set up a victim hotline. Committed volunteers from the group soon began opening their homes to domestic violence victims and their children who needed emergency shelter. This group continued to grow out of community need, and LACASA Center officially was established as a nonprofit organization in 1982.

Bobette A. Schrandt
President & CEO
LACASA Center, Michigan, USA



LACASA Center, 2895 W. Grand
River Ave., Howell, MI, USA
48843 517-548-1350
lacasacenter.org

Over the next three decades, LACASA expanded into a comprehensive agency providing help and hope for vulnerable victims. LACASA now offers 25 programs for victims and survivors who are on a journey of healing from severe trauma. It is the credo of LACASA's Board of Directors that "safety has no price," and all victim services, therefore, are provided at no charge. This is only made possible through generous donations from members of our community.

LACASA offers a compendium of programs for victims and survivors including a 20-bed Crisis Shelter, 24/7 Help Line, 24/7 On-Call Response Team, Sexual Assault Response Center, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program, Children's Center, Counseling Center, Legal Advocacy services, and a Transitional Housing Program. The nonprofit also provides numerous community-wide education and awareness programs to help prevent child abuse and interpersonal violence.

The church's support of LACASA has come full circle since 1979. Today, the **Rev. Daniel Michalek** serves as a member of LACASA's Board of Directors. In this leadership role, he continues the legacy and impact that the **First Presbyterian Church** of Brighton has had on the lives of victims and survivors from our community.

MESSAGE FROM THE BETTS FOUNDATION

Later this year, the Betts Foundation in collaboration with private corporations and a growing number of civil society organizations, including Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC) and the Social Justice & Peacemaking Ministry Team/Presbytery of Detroit will sponsor a regional wellness conference entitled, “Your Journey into Wellness.” The health consequences of violence against women will be one of the critical areas that the fall conference will cover.

As a physician, I concur with the findings of the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey conducted by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention which reported:

Men and women who experienced rape or stalking by any perpetrator or physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime were more likely to report frequent headaches, chronic pain, difficulty with sleeping, activity limitations, poor physical health and poor mental health than men and women who did not experience these forms of violence. Women who had experienced these forms of violence were also more likely to report having

Therefore, the Betts Foundation appreciates the opportunity to partner with the Presbyterian Church USA, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana, and the team of experts who planned “Safe and Sacred: Building the Capacity of Faith Communities to Address Gender Based Violence” and “Real Talk/Real Action: Engaging Men and Boys.”

Furthermore, it is my hope that all nations will stride to effectively implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000).



Dr. Margaret L. Betts
President and CEO
Betts Medical Group
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THE REVEREND DR. JAMES PERKINS, PRESIDENT PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

The Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., (PNBC) is often spoken of as the convention home of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. PNBC is a vital Baptist denomination with an estimated membership of 2.5 million people, including 1.5 million in the United States and one million in Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. PNBC was formed to give full voice, sterling leadership and active support to the American and global fight for human freedom. Since its inception in 1961 it has been ecumenical, supporting the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and the Baptist World Alliance. In 1970 PNBC became partners with the American Baptist Churches USA.

First, I would like to thank my member, the Reverend Deborah L. Shumake, who served on the 2013 planning team, for the Side Event: *"Moving Men from Bystanders to Allies"*, and serves on the 2015 Consultation Team that planned both the Parallel and Side Events for 2015. Through her insistence, PNBC has decided to support this awesome work that promotes healing, justice and healthy lifestyles worldwide.



Reverend Dr. James Perkins

In the spirit of partnership and collaboration during the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) at the United Nations, we are pleased to join with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations. PNBC's mission of equipping pastors and churches for effective ministry; lifting our voices on behalf of the voiceless truly is embodied in the Parallel event: *"Sacred and Safe: Building Capacity of Faith Communities to Address Gender- Based Violence."* I commend The Reverend Mark Koenig, Director, Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations and the Reverend Diane C. Smalley, Chair of the Social Justice and Peacemaking Ministry Team for the Presbytery of Detroit and Moderator of the 2015 Consultation Team, as well as the consultation team itself for their foresight and committed service. The team compiled the needed information, skill, and diversity that not only made the Parallel Event possible during CSW59, but also realized the continuation of an effective partnership with Botswana that led to the planning of a Side Event for 2015. PNBC, therefore, appreciates the dedication of His Excellency Charles Thembani Ntwaagae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations, and his colleague Ms. Mpho Mogobe. The collaborative spirit and strategic partnership that exist between government and civil society, and which led to the presentation of the 2015 Side Event, *"Real Talk/Real Action: Engaging Men and Boys"* warrants our congratulations.

As president of PNBC, I am committed to the eradication of all forms of gender-based violence and to the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA) as well as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Thus, our PNBC Women In Ministry Initiative, Chair, the Rev. Dr. Dolores James Cain shall represent PNBC at these forums, and shall elicit an understanding of how the PNBC can further join in this fight to be "an Advocate for the voiceless." We are pleased to participate and pleasantly expect to become part of Ecumenical Women in the near future.

MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

American Baptists have been called to be Christ's witnesses for justice and wholeness within a broken society.

American Baptists have been led by the Gospel mandates to promote holistic change within society, as witnessed by their advocacy of freed African Americans following the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, women in church and societal leadership, ecological responsibility, and many other issues.

While not all of one mind as to how to deal with challenges, American Baptists do affirm the need to follow Christ's example by being actively involved in changing society



Reverend Nikita McCalister



BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Margaret L. Betts, a functional medical specialist, provides allopathic and holistic medical care to her patients. She is well known throughout metropolitan Detroit, and is a nationally renowned speaker on many health-related topics, including the health consequences of sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence. In her address to a gathering of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Dr. Betts was quick to point out that survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence may experience physical injury, mental health and other health consequences; some of which may lead to hospitalization, disability and death. She concurs with the Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report (Centers for Disease Control [CDC]) which states that “women who experience sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are more likely to report asthma, irritable bowel syndrome, and diabetes.”

Twenty years ago Dr. Betts, who prides herself on not being a traditional physician, searched for a way to control weight and disease naturally. All of the paths that she has taken educationally and professionally have been informed by this search. It is a search (to borrow words from celebrated author Alice Walker) for her ‘Mother’s Garden’...a search that often leads her back to a time when she felt safe...a time when her mother’s portions comforted her. It is not surprising to hear her explain her work in the following terms: *“I practice internal and holistic medicine.”*

Dr. Betts, a strong supporter of higher education, is a product of Detroit Public Schools. She attended Wayne State University, and is a graduate of the Medical College of Ohio. Following graduation she returned to Detroit for residency at Providence Hospital, and eventually formed the Betts Medical Group and the Betts Foundation.



Min. Jonathan Betts Fields is currently a Master of Divinity candidate at Harvard Divinity School (HDS), where he serves as Spirituality Chair on the HDS Student Association Council. Mr. Fields was trained on how to identify and respond to disclosures of Sexual and Gender-based Violence at HDS and as Resident Director at Tufts University. As Interfaith Chaplain at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Min. Fields met with patients, families and staff to discuss their spirituality, relationships and/or other concerns as they related to their illness, and worked with the Spiritual Care team to present relevant programs, including a response to the Boston Marathon bombing. He is committed to Youth Ministry and Interfaith Counseling in the church, as well as in local and global communities.

Jonathan received his B.A. in English and Computer Science from Howard University. Min.. Fields has taught English and led professional development workshops in South Korea, Spain, Colombia and across the US. He has directed, staffed and chaperoned youth to peace camps in Detroit, Dallas, New Orleans, Lyon (France), London (Canada), and Tromsø (Norway) as a member of CISV International, a UNESCO partner Non Governmental Organization dedicated to educating and inspiring action for a more just and peaceful world. In addition, Jonathan received a Franklin Award as an intern at the United States Department of State’s Bureau of International Organization Affairs.

Mr. Fields was licensed as a Minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ on August 3, 2013 at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan. Join him weekly via social media for #TwitterChurch, an interactive devotional services in which he celebrates the joy of the Lord.

BIOGRAPHIES



Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune grew up in North Carolina where she received her undergraduate degree from Duke University. She received her seminary training at Yale Divinity School and was ordained a minister in the United Church of Christ in 1976. After serving in a local parish, she founded the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, now known as FaithTrust Institute, in 1977 where she served as Executive Director until 1999. Now she serves as Founder and Senior Analyst at FaithTrust Institute. Today FaithTrust Institute is a multifaith, multicultural organization in the U.S. providing religious communities and advocates with training, consultation and educational materials to address the faith aspects of abuse.

FaithTrust Institute continues to be a national leader in equipping faith communities to address sexual and domestic violence and in collaborating with colleagues around the world. Using every available technology, we continue to provide resources to clergy and lay leaders to enable them to be part of the solution, and not part of the problem.

Fortune is a pastor, educator, theologian, ethicist and author of numerous books including:

- *Sexual Violence: the Sin Revisited* (Pilgrim Press, Cleveland)
- *Keeping the Faith: Questions and Answers for Christian Abused Women* (HarperSan Francisco)
- *Is Nothing Sacred?* (Pilgrim Press, Cleveland)

Love Does No Harm: Sexual Ethics for the Rest of Us (Continuum, New York)

You can find her blog regularly at www.faithtrustinstitute.org

She has served on the National Advisory Committee for the Office on Violence Against Women in the U.S. Department of Justice and on the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence in the U.S. Department of Defense. She edited *The Journal on Religion and Abuse* from 2000-2008.



Rabbi Lisa Gelber, has worked at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) for over a decade. Currently Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School, Rabbi of the Seminary Synagogue and Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Professional and Pastoral Skills, Rabbi Gelber also serves as project leader at JTS for the Tikkun Middot Project, a national program to explore inner attitudes and character development through mindfulness practice.

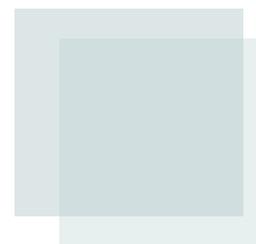
A trained spiritual director, with certification from the Yedidya Center for Jewish Spiritual Direction, Rabbi Gelber incorporates intentional, compassionate listening into her work and everyday life.

After graduating magna cum laude from Amherst College, she went on to earn an MA (1994) and Rabbinic Ordination (1996) from JTS. Rabbi Gelber then served as rabbi of Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation on Mercer Island, Washington and as the first rabbi of Congregation Kehillat Shalom in Skokie, Illinois before returning to NYC.

Editor of numerous works on domestic violence in the Jewish community, including *A Journey Towards Freedom: A Haggadah for Women Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence* (FaithTrust Institute, 2003), Rabbi Gelber served as a Board Member of the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence and FaithTrust Institute and appears in the interfaith documentary *I BELIEVE YOU: Faiths' Response to Intimate Partner Violence* (Diva Communications).

Rabbi Gelber has a particular interest in the developing spiritual lives of children and the power of contemplative practice to deepen family relationships. A marathon runner for whom running serves as spiritual practice, Rabbi Gelber is a long time supporter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training endurance sports program.

Recently featured in the emmy nominated *ALL OF THE ABOVE: Single, Clergy, Mother*, Rabbi Gelber lives in NYC with her daughter, Zahara.



BIOGRAPHIES



Revered Richard Irwin is the Founder and current President of Advance Alaska. He also acts as a consultant to Executive Directors for Alaska Work Source (an Incarceration Re-entry program); Tu'tan Recovery Center (a Drug and Alcohol Addiction Treatment Program), the Downtown Soup Kitchen (a Homeless food, clothing and shelter ministry) and to leaders in the Anchorage faith community.

His service to the people of Anchorage and Alaska began in 1973 through pastoral ministry. Richard has touched countless lives and gained extensive experience in conflict resolution, counseling, crisis intervention and leadership development. Richard is a well-known leader in the faith community and public sector throughout Alaska. He and his wife, Lindy, founded three churches.

In 1994 Richard's ministry took him to Swaziland, Africa. He was the Founder and President of Leadership for Africa, a non-profit organization in Swaziland. During his time with Leadership for Africa, Richard served as an advisor to business, faith, NGO, and government leaders. He developed leadership curricula, which were taught in the South Africa region and conducted a weekly leadership-training program on Swaziland and Trans World Radio. Richard also served as the Academic Dean for Swaziland School of Ministry and Missions and an adjunct teacher for Swaziland School of Theology.

Richard returned to Alaska in 2000 and served as the Senior Pastor of Anchorage City Church until 2012. Under his leadership, the church grew in its service to the community operating as a cold weather shelter for the homeless, hosting a food shelf operation and housing a low-income daycare center. Under his guidance, congregants established other non-profit organizations to serve the community. An example of this mobilizing of people is Beacon Hill which partners with the State of Alaska Office of Children's Services in providing assistance for families and children in crisis.

Richard's reputation and his understanding of the issues affecting Alaskans, particularly as it related to homelessness, domestic violence and mental health, led to serving on the Anchorage Mayor's Homelessness Task Force. He was appointed by Governor Sean Parnell to serve on the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in 2011. One of the initiatives launched under his leadership on the council is engaging the faith community to partner with state government providing solutions and training for faith-based leaders regarding domestic violence and sexual assault.



Dr. Tony Jones has been engaged in initiatives to stop domestic violence and sexual assault for over 17 years. He has been a member of InterAct's Faith Community Advisory Board for 14 years. Dr. Jones is the co-founder of the "Circle of Faith" Training Center for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention. In his role as advisor, Dr. Jones has been a speaker and presided at conferences focused on "Developing Healthy Relationships". Presently he is the Director for "Project Unity U.S.A for North Carolina.

Dr. Jones served as a program coordinator with the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault initiative designed to engage men and boys in the prevention of sexual assault. He specialized in designing and facilitating educational and training programs for community and faith based leaders, enabling them to extend the work throughout their communities. He also co-authored a culturally specific curriculum for "Rites of Passage", to engage African American men and boys in the prevention of sexual assault. Additionally Dr. Jones has designed and delivered a training program on "Healthy Manhood" to engage men within the faith community as well as college and university campuses.

A nationally sought out speaker, Dr. Jones travels throughout the country as a consultant, conference speaker, trainer, and sexual assault prevention educator for advocacy groups, universities, faith-based and community awareness events. Additionally, he has planned and organized a state-wide conference to increase awareness and education of sexual abuse prevention for the community and faith based leaders of North Carolina.

Dr. Jones is a compelling speaker and has relationship building strengths. This coupled with his unique ability to work with diverse populations enables him to create collaborative partnerships with leaders and organizations around the country to further the work of preventing violence against women.

BIOGRAPHIES



Susan Kheder, LMSW is currently the Executive Director, Patient and Community Engagement at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) in Ann Arbor, Michigan. For over 33 years, Ms. Kheder has been a patient and family advocate in various clinical and administrative roles within the health system.

During her years at SJMHS, she has worked to address family and workplace violence and has participated on various related committees and quality initiatives. She has chaired the hospital's Suspected Child and Adult Abuse and Neglect Committee and has assisted in the development of the Workplace Violence Response Team. Ms. Kheder has co-chaired the system's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Committee that led to the creation of system policies for assessment and treatment of patients in intimate partner violence (IPV) situations and a human resource policy to assist managers and employees dealing with personal issues associated with IPV. In addition, Ms. Kheder had administrative responsibility for the development of the system's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program. She has provided healthcare training on IPV, presented at state and national conferences, written related articles, participated in research on the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of healthcare workers and IPV. In 2003, Ms. Kheder was the site coordinator, through the Open World Program, and hosted an 11-member Russian delegation 9-day learning intensive on Women as Leaders, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, a coordinated community response. In 2013, Ms. Kheder co-presented at the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations, a Side Event entitled, "Moving Men from Bystanders to Allies".

Within the Ann Arbor Community, Ms. Kheder was an active member on the Coalition on Gender Violence and Safety. She has chaired or participated on various sub-committees, such as provider education, Youth Violence Prevention, Employer Outreach, the development of a county-wide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program and a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.



Ms. Sheila Louder currently serves as Vice Moderator Justice and Peace Concerns, Presbyterian Women, Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) Inc., member Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC) and as ACWC's liaison Advocacy Committee for Social Witness Policy (ACSWP), Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

In her role as Presbyterian Women's Vice Moderator Justice and Peace Concerns Sheila leads the Presbyterian Women delegation at the United Nations 2013-2015 and serves on the Presbyterian Church's planning Team in preparation to attend the Commission.

She wrote the grant for and facilitated the Presbyterian Women CCT Sisters Stand and Walk Together program, Synod of South Atlantic (2010-2013) and moderator Committee of Women of Color/Justice for Women, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Sheila is a ruling elder, PC (U.S.A.) and was a commissioner to the 218th General Assembly in San Jose, CA

BIOGRAPHIES



Reverend Nikita McCalister is presently the Senior Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Pawtucket, RI. Pastor Nikita, as she is often referred to, has been in pastoral ministry for over fifteen years, serving at various congregations. Her initial exposure and experience regarding the prevention of domestic and sexual violence began with her certified training from the FaithTrust Institute Multi-Faith Symposium "Working together to end sexual & domestic violence." Since then she has worked in congregations and with other passionate faith advocates like the Rev. Diane Smalley and the Rev. Deborah Shumake.

McCalister's infectious love of God and people is demonstrated by the transparency with which she involves and engages them to make decisions for their betterment. It is said by many, "she penetrates our hearts and minds with openness and love". She is a frequently sought after speaker, teacher and consultant. Her specific ministry to young adults has enabled her to be an advocate for students as a member of the University of Rhode Island Chaplain Association; Reverend McCalister was the speaker for the "2013 Young Professionals Forum" at the University of Botswana, in Gaborone, Botswana Africa. This Spring with a team of women from the American Baptist Churches USA (ABC-USA) she will continue to break barriers to build bridges for women in the Republic of Georgia at the invitation of Professor Dr. Malkhaz Songulashvili who is the former Archbishop of the Republic of Georgia and the current Bishop of Tbilisi.

Her advocacy for women and all the issues that affect their safety, livelihood and religious freedom has emboldened her to speak up and out for those who are oppressed, held captive, imprisoned, and marginalized throughout the local, national, and global communities.

Pastor Nikita has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resources Management from Central Michigan University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Detroit Mercy and a Master of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology. She serves as a Board Member for both the American Baptist Churches USA (ABC-USA) Women in Ministry and the National Women of Color in Ministry Project.

She is married to Rev. Jabulani McCalister, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Providence, RI. They are the proud parents of two children.



Reverend Daniel Michalek, is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Brighton, Michigan, An has served in that position since 1996. His wife, Francine, is director of worship and music at the Brighton church and together they have two grown children, Krista and David.

A native of Flint, Michigan and a graduate of the University of Michigan and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston, he served two churches in Pennsylvania for a total of twenty years before returning to his home state. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of LACASA, Livingston County's non profit organization that 'protects, advocates for and empowers victims and survivors of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.

He was active in LACASA's Interfaith Task Force throughout its existence, and was especially involved in developing three conferences that brought together clergy and laity, community leaders, and domestic violence prevention specialists to address the common cause of eliminating domestic violence.

The First Presbyterian Church of Brighton has supported LACASA since its creation. Three members of the congregation were instrumental in establishing LACASA, which was housed in the church facilities during its early days. The first biennial "Breaking the Silence Award" was presented to the church during the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s national meeting three years ago in Minneapolis.

BIOGRAPHIES



Robina Niaz, MS, MSW, was born and raised in Pakistan and migrated to the United States in 1990. She is the founder and Executive Director of Turning Point for Women and Families, the first non-profit to address domestic violence in New York City's Muslim community. In addition to crisis intervention, counseling services, advocacy and referrals and community outreach and education, Turning Point has also developed a youth program serving teenage girls and young women. Its two flagship projects are: *Mecca to Manhattan: Meslim Women Moving Mountains* which helps Muslim girls and young women develop leadership skills and *ARISE NY!* Which address bullying of Muslim youth in local schools.

Prior to founding Turning Point in 2004, Robina worked at several mainstream non-profit organization in management and supervisory positions. She has served on numerous boards including Sakhi for South Asian Women, Queens Women's Network, the Interfaith Council of New York, the Coalition for Battered Women's Advocates, and the Muslim Consultative Network. She has also served as a consultant to the Domestic Harmony Committee of the Islamic Center of Long Island, and as a social work consultant to ICNA-Relief. Robina currently serves on the board of Hartley Film Foundation, is a member of the Social Work Advisory Council at Medgar Evers College, and the Field Instruction Advisory Board at Adelphi University School of Social Work.

Robina has spoken extensively against domestic violence locally, nationally and internationally and has received numerous honors and awards. She has also been quoted and appeared on several media outlets including CNN, NY1, Geo TV, Aaj TV, Al-Hurra TV. In September 2009, Robina was named a CNN Hero and featured as one of the "500 Most Influential Muslims" by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center in Jordan the same year. Most recently, in August 2014, Robina was honored by NYC' Public Advocate Letitia James at an Eid celebration. She was also named Queens Person of the Week by the television channel NY1 (March 2010) and honored by Mayor Bloomberg in honor of Women's History Month (March 2011). She has also received awards from FEBA (Federation of Balkan American Associations), New York Women's Foundation, Chhaya CDC, State Senator Eric Adams, Women's eNews, Bank of America, Queens Council for Social Welfare and NASW-NY, NEMWA (North East Muslim Women's Association), Women In Islam, Inc., Union Square Awards, Open Society Institute and the Queens Borough President, Claire Shulman.

Turning Point for Women and Families is based in Queens, New York. For more information please visit its website: www.tpony.org.



Rick Santos is the President and Chief Executive Officer of IMA World Health. In the last four years at IMA, Rick has led the organization through a period of transition that has included significant organizational growth and visibility.

Before coming to IMA, Rick had over two decades of experience in faith-based relief and development work. He has been responsible for providing leadership to large and complicated relief and development programs in the field and has served as a senior manager at the headquarters of two different global development organizations, where he provide strategic guidance and helped developed new areas of focus.

Rick has a decade of field experience in Asia, and has worked with faith-based and secular organizations in nearly every part of the world. His developmental approach includes prioritizing local partnerships and capacity building, which he believes is the key ingredient to successful development work.

IMA currently implements a USAID funded SGBV Project in Goma, DRC. That project inspired the Rick and the IMA Board to do more on the issue and IMA is currently the Secretariat for the We Will Speak Out, US Coalition, and last summer, published the report "Broken Silence" with Sojourners. The report highlighted data on attitudes and knowledge of SGBV from a survey of 1000 protestant pastors.

Rick holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Johns Hopkins University's Carey School of Business, a Masters of Theological Studies degree from Harvard Divinity School, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from George Washington University.

BIOGRAPHIES



The Reverend Deborah L. Shumake, a child survivor of domestic violence, was introduced to the work - "Working together to end sexual & domestic violence" through participation in FaithTrust Institute, Phoenix, Arizona, Multi-Faith Symposium. Shortly after attending this certificate program, Shumake began serving with the Rev. Diane C. Smalley on the Council of Clergywomen of Metropolitan Detroit, where a practicum or model was developed, "Train The Trainer. Shumake's conscious was pricked by learning of and understanding the church's failure to respond to the needs of its congregants in the area of violence against women and children. She continued her investigations in the area of the Church and its silence at The Black Church & Domestic Violence Institute, Atlanta, GA; "Ministry Response to Domestic Violence."

While seeking ways that the Faith Community might be impacted with action, Shumake, a prolific writer and playwright, authored, "Giving Voice To Our Sisters", A Biblical Look at the Stories of Violence Against Women with a View Towards Healing, Deliverance and Justice published by GW Publishing Inc. Also Rev. Shumake's passion for drama as a cognitive teaching tool allowed her to write, direct and produce the play: "*Sista Girl, I Feel Ya: Giving Voice To Our Sisters*" demonstrating in a modern setting the same biblical characterizations of violence against women on stage.

Reverend Shumake found that in most Faith Communities the overwhelming fact is that the greater percentages of parishioners, attendants and or followers are females. Some statistics have quoted up to as much as 75% of attendants are females, and yet, men lead the greater majority of faith communities. Shumake served as an organizing committee member for Round Table 8: A Conversation with Well Meaning Men, held at Gratiot Ave. Presbytery Church, Detroit, formally pastored by the Reverend Diane Smalley.

In March 2013, Shumake, Executive Administrator to the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Botswana, and personal friend of Her Excellency Dr. Tebelelo Serestse, former Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana to the United States assisted in creating a partnership with the Republic of Botswana Permanent Missions and the Presbyterian Church USA to provide a side event — "Moving Men from Bystanders to Allies", held at the 57th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. She is pleased to have served on the Planning Team, chaired by Rev. Diane C. Smalley to culminate the 2015 Panel Discussions at the 59th Commission on the Status of Women—Parallel Event: Sacred and Safe: Building Capacity of Faith Communities to Address Gender-Based Violence and Side Event: Real Talk/Real Action: Engaging Men and Boys in Prevention and Intervention Strategies for Addressing Gender Based Violence.

Reverend Deborah L. Shumake recognizes that the faith based community can serve as a real resource to families, and to victims of violence, especially women and girls, and perpetrators by taking a proactive role in engaging, enhancing, enlightening and equipping the community through methods, modules, and life giving mentorship. Thus, she is the founder/pastor of Greater One Ministries; CEO, God's Woman Showcase Global Initiative; CEO, Ain't I A Woman Non-Profit Inc., and W.O.M.E.N are Emergency Managers (Wisdom Operating/Mentoring/ Enhancing/Neighborhoods/ Nations).



Reverend Diane C. Smalley was a graduate student at the Eastern Michigan University, pursuing a degree in Women's Studies, and enrolled in a gender studies course that explored issues of voice, violence and silence in 1997 when Tamara Williams was murdered by her boyfriend on the north campus of the University of Michigan. Diane asked her professors if they would support her as she organized a conference around the aforementioned issue. They agreed, and a conference named "Between Voice and Silence" was born. Several departments at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan supported the weekend conference which was held on the campus of EMU and at the Eagle Crest Center at the Marriott. As a result of this work, Reverend Smalley received the Provost's Award, and a contract from Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital to produce a documentary named *Women of Promise*. Dr. Margaret L. Betts was featured in the documentary.

From 2006-07, Reverend Smalley coordinated the Domestic Violence Tutorial Project, which was funded in part by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Friends of First UGRR Living Museum. Through the project, faith-based leaders were educated, empowered and encouraged to respond to intimate partner and sexual violence. Her work with the Domestic Violence Tutorial Project led to her appointment as moderator of the Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN), a network of the Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA). She held this national position until the spring of 2011. Reverend Smalley, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., serves on the Institutional Review Board for the Medical School at the University of Michigan and is the Chair of the Patient and Community Engagement Council for Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

BIOGRAPHIES



Donna Thompson is the Training Coordinator for the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA). Donna has served in several capacities since beginning her employment with SCCADVASA. In her current role, Donna is responsible for coordinating the planning and implementation of 40 statewide conferences, trainings, meetings, webinars, and educational events for up to 300 attendees that address the issues of both domestic and sexual violence. Donna's eye for details, a desire for excellence, and her passion to help others is reflected in her work as she plans events that she hopes will educate, enlighten, and inspire those who are working with victims of domestic and sexual violence.

She is currently a licensed minister at Living Word Church and Fellowship. Prior to being licensed, she served in several capacities at Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, as a Sunday school teacher, women's bible study instructor, a youth group leader, and a member of the domestic violence ministry.

Donna who is currently pursuing her certification to become a Certified Meeting Planner (CMP), is a member of Meeting Professionals International and a member of the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW).

In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and watching movies.

Dr. Lisa Whitehead is a native of Baltimore Maryland. She is a devoted wife and mother of 3 sons. She founded the faith-based non-profit organization "Victims in the Sanctuary." The mission is to; 1) raise the spiritual consciousness of faith leaders and engage them in dialogue that addresses strategies in our response to Intimate Partner Violence 2) establishing meaningful partnership with community agencies on prevention, intervention and empowering advocacy, 3) cultivate a training institute that's clergy specific with a unique curriculum is designed for Pastors, 4) provided framework for building effective domestic violence ministries that included policies and protocols that address "Faith Place Violence."



Dr. Whitehead has worked over 10 years in various capacities at House of Ruth Maryland Emergency Shelter. She now collaborates with them as a vital partner in education and training. Dr. Whitehead is a Professor at Coppin State University where she teaches "Family Violence" in the Department of Applied Psychology and Rehabilitation Counseling. She is a member of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. She works on the committee of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives Interfaith Domestic Violence Coalition.

Dr. Whitehead is a graduate of the North Carolina College of Theology. She presently co-hosts a radio show in Baltimore Maryland that addresses social justice issues and promotes healthy lifestyles and relationships. Dr. Whitehead is a member of the Female Clergy Support Group in Maryland where Dr. Karen Bethea is the Ministry Leader. Dr. Whitehead is an ordained Elder and serves as Co-Pastor with her husband, Pastor Rodney E. Hampton at the "The Gathering" under the Greater Dominion Movement & Ministry in Baltimore, Maryland. She has been preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the country for over 20 years under the ministry she founded "Woman with The Sword." Dr. Whitehead is faithful to the ministry of Salvation, ending domestic violence and eliminating discrimination against women. Dr. Whitehead works on the NGO/CSW at the United Nations. She exemplifies "being the change." She provides tools and resources to the faith community to produce change locally, nationally and globally.



Shannon Beck connects individuals, congregations, Presbyteries, and Synods with each other and with PCUSA global partners working on reconciliation in cultures of violence including our own.

She currently serves on the steering committee of the inter-religious organization, WeWillSpeakOut.US, has coordinated advocacy for the Washington State Division of National Religious Campaign against Torture, worked in the Seattle area with Presbyterians and other partners engaged in peace and justice work.

She is currently focused on a global Presbyterian campaign to end violence against women and children. In her spare time she is a blogger, poet, peace activist, and writes and performs original folk and blues music.

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