



Standing Our Holy Ground Webinar Series

One Step at a Time: The Trauma Recovery and Rebuilding Process in the Wake of Gun Violence

May 27, 2020 at 5 pm (EST)

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Gun violence is an incident of human caused disaster. Recovering from such trauma requires time, energy, and a supportive community. As people of faith, we are called to walk alongside those that are hurting in their times of need. But what does that accompaniment actually look like? This episode of “Standing Our Holy Ground” features a panel of trauma experts and explore the various stages of healing from the trauma of gun violence and the Church’s role in accompanying people in their healing process.

Panelist Background



Rev. Kathy Riley is a PC(USA) minister whose primary calling has been in interim ministry. Her first career was as a clinical neuropsychologist specializing in aging and Alzheimer’s disease. A volunteer with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) National Response Team since 2012, Kathy joined the PDA staff in a temporary position in Emotional and Spiritual Care in response to the hurricane season of 2017.



Rev. Dr. James J. Kirk is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in August of 2016 accepted the position of Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Jim is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional (CCFP) through the International Association of Trauma Professionals and a member of the International Critical Stress Foundation (ICSF). Jim was a volunteer with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for over 20 years. In that role Jim has responded to a variety of disaster including natural and public violence. Jim is also a past chair of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee. He has also been a National and Local Volunteer with Red Cross since 2008. Jim was a part of a team that developed the Disaster Spiritual Care program that is currently being integrated into Red Cross Chapters around the country.



Rev. Cecelia D. Armstrong is called “CC” by friends and family members. Pastor CC is a graduate of the Interdenominational Theological Center, where she attended Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary and earned her Masters of Divinity. After seminary, she served Grady Memorial Hospital as a chaplain and Beth Salem Presbyterian Church (USA) as supply pastor. As an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. Armstrong served her first call as Solo Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church (USA) in Lantana, Florida. Now, Pastor CC is the very proud Associate Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church (USA) on James Island in Charleston, SC.



Rev. Dr. Bruce G. Wismer is an ordained teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA. He has served in ministry for 35 years and currently he along with his spouse Karen are Co-Pastors at Pine Shores Presbyterian in Sarasota, Florida. Bruce is a member of the National Response Team of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. He has been involved in national and international disaster responses and has responded to both natural disaster and human caused, including Newtown, Ct., Boston bombing, Orlando, FL. and Parkland, FL. He is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional through the International Association of Trauma Professionals, and collaborated in developing *Compassion Fatigue Prevention & Resiliency Training for Faith Leaders: Trainer’s and Participant Manual*. Currently, Bruce is the Chair of the Institute for Collective Trauma and Growth.

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