



Welcome to WHOLE Disciples!

We are a newly emerging DOC Ministry passionate about creating conversation and advocacy around the cycles of abuse and trauma in our world, our communities and churches.

We have been working to dismantle Shame, Stigma, and Silence so that those pressed into the margins by harmful relationships can come out of the shadows and find healing sanctuary spaces to flourish and heal. We invite you to join us on this mission. We cannot do this alone. Please see our attached brochure for more information on how you can get involved.

The Pacific Southwest Region joined us by adding resources to their email blasts and has made the Un-Silence Domestic Violence online course a part of their CEU offerings to clergy. The Indiana Region joined us by offering resources on their website and email blasts. The Illinois Wisconsin Region joined us by adding a domestic violence ministry page to their website and promotes the Un-Silence Domestic Violence training.

As agents of the church and as Disciples charged with cultivating “wholeness in a fragmented world,” part of our collective responsibility is to:

- Become safer space for those who have been harmed
- Provide opportunities for individual and collective healing

- To educate ourselves and others around the subversive issues that threaten the safety and flourishing of our communities

There has been a lot of trepidation around advocating openly for those harmed by domestic and intimate partner violence. Abuse has traditionally been a taboo topic in our churches. However, the statistics prove that abuse is prevalent and thriving in the shadows of our sanctuaries. The silence around this issue from the pulpit, is another form of abuse.

We officially launched our ministry to the wider church with support from the [NBA](#) in 2021:



[Click here to watch video](#)

We, WHOLE Disciples, invite you to step into a brave space of awareness and educational activism where you can make an impactful difference in the lives of those you serve and have yet to meet. You can create progressive healing sanctuary space and we can show you how.

With gratitude for your consideration,

WHOLE Disciples Ministry

WHOLE DISCIPLES MISSION

“To help the church, across all its expressions, to recognize its responsibility to help prevent domestic violence as it concerns the elderly, spouses, intimate partners, children, and others in the household and the church.”

— **Resolution GA-1928: A Call to See and Respond to the Crisis of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence** (click [link](#) to view resolution)



Rev. Courtney Armento, Co-Author of GA-1928

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Rev. Dr. Crystal Walker

Rev. Olivia Updegrove

Rev. Dr. Amber Mattingly

Rev. Amie Vanderford

Rev. Dr. Michael Joseph

Rev. Dr. CJ Koen

Rev. Dr. Galen Goben

Rev. Sadie Culumber

Questions? Contact Rev. Courtney Armento at courtneyarmento@gmail.com or visit www.Tethered1.org

*In Memoriam

WHOLE Disciples



*A Movement for Domestic & Intimate
Partner Violence Eradication*

WOKE, HEALED, ORGANIC, LIBERATED, EDUCATED

Did you know
that...



Over 1 in 3
women

1 in 3 teens



1 in 4 men

**will experience Domestic
Violence in their
lifetimes?**

WHOLE Disciples is a new ministry focused on education and advocacy around Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV) and the empowerment of survivors to navigate towards a life free of abuse. DV/IPV holds over 12 million people hostage in toxic relationships. We Disciples are called to care and respond to this crisis. The clergy members of WHOLE Disciples are committed to supporting church communities as part of **Resolution GA-1928: A Call to See and Respond to the Crisis of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence.**

Three Ways You Can Help

1 Participate in Education

Education is of the utmost importance when supporting people dealing with toxic relationships. The nuances to the abuse dynamic are complex and they are not taught in seminary. It is very easy to harm someone by unknowingly saying the wrong thing. You can prepare yourself to be a sensitive responder by:

- Attending CC(DOC) Clergy DV/IPV training through the Un-Silence Domestic Violence online course at [Thresholds of the Soul](#) - CEU's available
- Visiting [Tethered1](#) to access book lists, templates, links to national websites, and a free webinar.
- Becoming aware of the shelters and resources in your area. Find local resources by zip code at [Domestic Shelters](#)
- Be on the lookout for resources from WHOLE Disciples regarding youth and young adult healthy relationship workshops and new clergy universal awareness training.

2 Resource Your Community

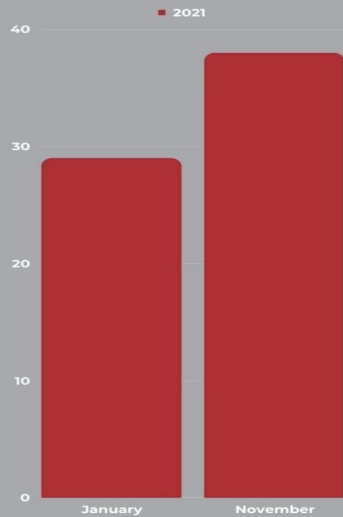
Deepen the awareness of your community around the experience of individuals experiencing DV/IPV by taking action to share resources, workshops, and prayer events. Prepare your community to care for those who silently suffer by:

- Hosting educational workshops for your community offered by [Tethered1](#).
- Encouraging leaders in your communities to become sensitive responders by educating themselves about DV/IPV.
- Publicize local and national resources on your websites; see examples at [theBLEND Church](#), or [Tethered1](#) or the [CCIW](#) Regional page.

3 Create Safer Sacred Space

Commit to creating safer sanctuary space for those whose lives have been ravaged by abuse. Be prepared to offer sensitive and responsive care that shatters the shame, stigma, and silence surrounding DV/IPV. You create safer space when you preach on abuse and violence, topics that are often unspoken in the church. Jesus came so that we may have abundant life, not shrink under violence and oppression. *Courageously face this silent crisis—you save lives through creating a safer sanctuary space. Here's an easy pathway:*

- Visit Sojourners 100 Sermons on domestic and sexual violence: [sojo.net/100sermons](#).
- Destigmatize abuse by dismantling *Shame, Stigma* and *Silence* in your context. Normalize personal boundaries and truth telling.
- Publicize your church as a safer space for those who are suffering. Provide resources on your website, newsletters, and social media, add posters and pamphlets in your restrooms.
- Refer out to local shelters and licenced therapists.



PASTORS CONSIDERING LEAVING

- **Jan. 2021**
29% of pastors are seriously considering leaving full-time ministry
- **Nov. 2021**
38% of pastors are seriously considering leaving full-time ministry



Due to the staggering truth, of increased Clergy resignation shared by New Church Ministry, and personal experience, Rev. Courtney and Rev. Dr. Amber Mattingly are presenting **Empowering Pastors to Pivot**. This automated workshop will be available in **January 2023**:

3 Ways to Shift from Difficult to Divine and Stay in the Game

This dynamic workshop shows pastors the power of the **PIVOT**.

While our boundaries trainings show us how to recognize important boundaries between us and our congregations, they DON'T show us how to recognize when our congregations are abusive towards us (even if unintentional).

It happens – but you can learn the warning signs AND what to do about it. Courtney and Amber will show you the **necessary skills to identify congregational abuse** so that you can make informed and strategic plans.

You do not want to miss this!

Empowering Pastors to Pivot Workshop Opt-In:
<https://www.thresholdsofthesoul.org/pivot-workshop>

Empowering Pastors to Pivot 90 Minute Workshop

Pastors, do you ever feel a bit lost in the woods and wonder how to pivot? Join us for a self-paced workshop to show you how to think about ministry in new ways. Get empowered to make pivots with *ease and grace*

Will be released on January 23, 2023

Got Curiosity?

Rev. Courtney, is co-leading 5 week curiosity cohorts with Edge Network - United Church of Canada. This conversation aids faith communities in embracing transformation. It is a perfect pairing with Empowering Pastors to Pivot.

<http://edge-ucc.ca/cohorts/>



Best News, It is FREEEEE! 2023 dates are EST:

1/24/-2/21 Tuesdays @ 6:00PM, 3/23-4/20 Thursdays @ noon, 5/12-6/9 @ 1:00PM

edge@united-church.ca email for more information