Workshop 3C
Domestic Violence and the Black Church: Stepping Up and Stepping Out

Moderator/Panelists: Sandra Edmonds Crewe

Presenters: Oliver Williams
Ruth Lambert

Dr. Oliver Williams stated that 50% of African American women homicides are related to domestic violence and African American women often turn first to their clergy/church when faced with a family crisis. He indicated that although the church is often sought by women as a first responder to domestic violence, the church isn’t always an ideal solution provider. The black church needs to build programs to prevent and address domestic violence, speak out against domestic violence, and communicate that people can change, but that change needs to be demonstrated by behavior. The clergy must take a spiritual stand against domestic violence and support both women who leave and those who stay in abusive relationships.

Dr. Ruth Lambert shared the faith leaders to do list must include: believe the victim; keep confidentiality; respect space (do not touch); offer alternatives; report child abuse; and more. Clergy should develop appropriate partnerships with their professional local community domestic violence resources. Dr. Lambert shared the recommended websites and programs:

- Utah Domestic Violence Council: [www.udvc.org](http://www.udvc.org)
- Office on Violence Against Women: [www.ovw.usdoj.gov](http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov)
- Not 2 Believers Like Us: [www.n2blunhe.org](http://www.n2blunhe.org)
- Family Violence Prevention Fund: [www.endabuse.org](http://www.endabuse.org)
- Indiana Healthy Marriage & Family Coalition: [www.ihmfc.org](http://www.ihmfc.org)

Dr. Sandra Crewe indicated that incidents of domestic violence by caregivers, especially caregivers for the elderly is rising and may be related to retaliation by caregiver - this issue needs to be discussed and address by African American clergy/churches.