

Recommendations
of the
Task Force on Compassionate
Care for Victims of Clergy
Sexual Misconduct

November 9, 2018



Episcopal Diocese
of San Diego
FEARLESS LOVE

Task Force Mandate: Resolution 17-04

- . . . task force to **study the experience of victims who report clergy sexual misconduct**; become educated on **best practices for safeguarding these reporters**; and **issue recommendations** to the Standing Committee, Executive Council, and the 45th Convention. . .
- . . . the **recommendations shall reflect a trauma-informed approach** . . . to the care of reporting victims, **both through the canonical reporting process, as well as in their home parish.**

Recommendations

- Comprehensive change is needed
- Integrated strategy with three dimensions:
 - Leadership-focused education
 - Victim-focused Compassionate Care Team
 - Congregation-focused Pastoral Response Team
- The recommendations work in tandem – all 3 are necessary to avert continued retraumatization

1. Education

1. Establish model program for annual education of leadership about:
 - Trauma inflicted by clergy sexual misconduct
 - Impact of retraumatization
 - Trauma-informed care and best practices
 - Helping to heal primary victim and congregation
2. Regular congregational education on clergy sexual misconduct
 - Create culture of awareness, displace myths
 - Aid in prevention of misconduct and foster supportive, responsive environment

2. Compassionate Care Team

- Victim-focused, interdisciplinary team, laity and clergy
- Significant number of clergy sexual misconduct survivors for their knowledge of and experience with retraumatization (and to engender trust of Complainant)
- Ensures trauma-informed care during and after Title IV process
- Serves as hub for training, guidance, communication for all “response staff”
- Ensures accountability: continuity of care, follow-through on representations made to Complainant, timeliness
- Provides direct support to Complainant, if she/he elects
- Continues to develop best practices

3. Pastoral Response Team

- Congregation-focused
- Works in consultation with local clergy
- Interdisciplinary team including clergy and laity
- Experience in pastoral care, psychology, congregational life, conflict mediation
- Trained, skilled, prepared to offer support for any congregation-wide, traumatic event (not just clergy sexual misconduct)

Questions?
