



**Office of the Bishop
Discipleship Ministry Team
Mission & Service Ministry Team
United Methodist Women
United Methodist Men
Board of Laity**

October 17, 2017

Greetings in the name of Christ!

On behalf of our various conference ministries, we write on the occasion of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is observed every October. The United Methodist Church takes seriously our role in domestic violence prevention and awareness, yet we realize the silence that often surrounds these tragic situations tearing apart families and communities.

According to our Social Principles, The United Methodist Church recognizes that family violence and abuse in all its forms — verbal, psychological, physical, sexual — are detrimental to the covenant of the human community. Each local church is encouraged to provide a safe environment, counsel, and support for the victim. While the Church deplores the action of the abuser, the Church affirms that person to be in need of God's redeeming love (§161G, *Book of Discipline*).

We encourage you during this month to bring awareness to this very important issue. To assist in that endeavor, we have included some signage that you can display in your churches. We also suggest including awareness in sermons and Sunday school classes. Connect with local resources by inviting guest speakers or hosting other special educational events.

We also direct you to some helpful websites filled with great information:

- UMC General Board of Church and Society – <http://main.umc-gbcs.org/issues/domestic-violence>
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services – <http://www.okdhs.org/purpleribbon/Pages/default.aspx>
- Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault – <http://ocadvsa.org/>
- Discipleship Ministries – <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/prayer-for-domestic-violence-prevention-month-october>

Blessings,

Bishop Jimmy Nunn,
Resident Bishop

Chuck Stewart,
Conference Lay Leader

Glenda Gilpin,
President, UMWomen

Mark Springer,
President, UMMen

Rev. Derrek Belase,
Director, Discipleship

Rev. Jeremy Basset,
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