



COURTNEY ARMENTO

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PROFILE

Courtney Armento is a member of First Christian Church Pomona in Southern California. She served as pastoral intern at University Church, Chicago. She embodies a Womanist hermeneutic of social justice with a focus on trauma specific healing, liberation, agency recovery, resilience and resurrection. Prior to seminary, she garnered over 20 years experience in hospitality management, accounting management and specialized in key organizational innovation strategies for performance enhancement and risk reduction.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Claremont School of Theology

Master of Divinity

January 2016 – May 2019

[Disciples Seminary Foundation student, awarded the Lacey Scholarship 2018.]

40-hour certificate Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention, Illinois

May 2018 – July 2018

PASSION

Courtney is driven to inspire the power of community to create systemic change, in that vein, she co-authored resolution **GA-1928, A Call to See and Respond to Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV)**, which will be voted on for adoption at the General Assembly for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), July 2019. One of the asks in the resolution, is that each local church and region add a page, on their website dedicated to Abuse specific resources. She has compiled offerings to get you started, you will need to search your local area shelters and support agencies to add to your site for your context.

Resolution GA-1928 is a call for specific action around creating sensitized sanctuary spaces for conversations and advocacy concerning DV/IPV. Courtney is passionate about assisting churches in cultivating healing space for survivors, developing resources for restoring emotional health, and resilience and weaving these conversations into church life. More specifically, how to respond appropriately to someone in your midst who might be suffering in silence and in plain sight. She teaches the specifics, nuances and dynamics of Intimate Partner Violence that many miss and conveys how prevalent IPV is in our communities. Due to the profoundly embedded culture of shame, many never report abuse, nor receive the support needed to make life changes that empower individuals to safely end abusive relationships, heal and engage in healthy relationships through employment of strong boundaries.

She believes in Christ as salvific model toward self-awareness, wholeness, wellness, and flourishing. Leading with compassion, she develops models of support that encourage communities to embrace space for lament and grief as modalities towards claiming the fullness of life! Biblically, lament was culturally centric to life's loss process and availed a way forward.

Courtney has developed a tool box of resources and information which will prepare you to shatter shame, silence, and stigma by bringing simple initiatives to your church context. She is available for on-site training, one-on-one coaching, zoom meetings, and will soon develop webinars to educate your staff, ministerial leaders and congregations.

~Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence are cyclical relationship dynamics where one partner exudes power and control over the other, often repeated generationally. Children who witness DV/IPV often subconsciously make painful relationship choices. Teens reenact behavior they have witnessed or emulate pop-culture. The media is saturated with overt and covert messages that glamorize violence, dominance and Intimate Partner Violence. Within this normalization, victims are shamed and re-traumatized when they bear the courage to come forward. Historically there have been few safe spaces to trust. I am asking the church to become a haven for trust. A proper posture of response includes ways of engendering dignity, compassion, affirmation, and support, in a judgement-free, and blameless space. ~

Courtney's greatest hope is that we collectively diminish the prevalence of violence in intimate spaces. To this end, we must raise awareness, self-love and esteem and promote IPV education in all expressions of the church, especially in youth and young adult ministries. Let's create a new social consciousness where flourishing replaces brokenness and pain.
