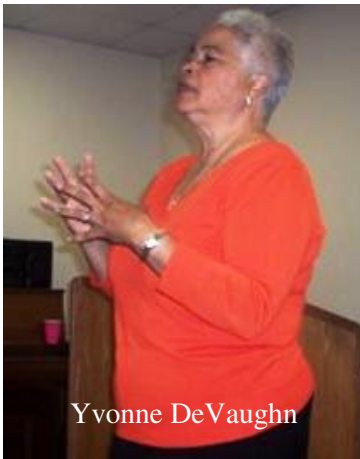


# Report on First Regional Domestic Violence Conference

The Midsouth Region of The Evangelical Covenant Church held its first conference on domestic violence at Redeemer Covenant Church on April 30 – May 1.



Yvonne DeVaughn

This “*Conference on Domestic Violence: Coming Together*” had the theme of “*Men and Women Responding to Domestic Violence*”.

Congregants came together as one, focusing on the need to *intentionally* begin an education process considered necessary to combat family abuse. Participants included

Redeemer’s pastors, some Council Executive Committee members, and Discipleship and Fellowship Chairs.

Rev. Anna Marie was Conference Director and was supported by Redeemer’s “*Dynamic Eight*” Domestic Violence Advocacy Team.

Alexandra Vriend and Yvonne DeVaughn led our worship in music. Amy Judd, Jake Petty, Ken Armentrout and Lori Vriend led Scripture readings, Intercessory Prayers, and a Litany for Healing.

This year, Redeemer took a strong stand against the issue of Family Abuse. We emphasized research, processes, leadership and congregant education, and collaborating with local intervention providers of service and inter-agency communities. Clergy, lay, and community leaders were included to facilitate a deeper grasp of the dynamics of family violence.

An enthusiastic gathering of thirty conferees met. Participants from other Evangelical Covenant Churches included Faith Covenant in Houston, Crossroads Covenant in DeSoto, and Bethel Bible Fellowship in Carrollton. Also,



ministers from two local Baptist churches participated (from Denton and The Colony).

Speakers included three professionals from local community service organizations.



Yvonne De Vaughn, Director of our denomination’s AVA program (Advocacy for Victims of Abuse), taught and led discussions on three major topics. Dr. Willie, Rev. Anna Marie, and Pastor Mark addressed “What Churches Can Do”.

Practical topics included: *Justice and Healing for Children* (Dan Leal & Rev. Jenkins); *The Church, The Bible, and Family Abuse* (Dr. Willie); *Pastor to Pastor Discussion* (Pastor Mark & Dr. Willie); *What Churches Can Do About Domestic Violence* (Rev. Anna Marie); *Overview of*

*Domestic Violence, Breaking the Silence; Teenagers and Domestic Violence; and What Clergy and Lay Leaders Need to Know to Respond to Domestic Violence* (Yvonne DeVaughn).

Our goal is to hold more conferences in other local churches and communities, as well as in other Midsouth

churches. Participant feedback included requests for more discussion time and small group interaction.

October is “Domestic Violence Awareness Month”. We are continuing our work with advocates, partners, and faith and community leaders.

## To learn more, contact:

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