

**Keeping Faith: Empowering Faith Communities to**

 **Recognize and Respond to Child Maltreatment**

9:00-10:30 **When Faith Hurts: Recognizing and responding to the physical, emotional, and spiritual impact of child abuse.** This workshop begins with an overview of the teachings of Jesus on child abuse and then reviews research on how maltreatment impacts a child physically, emotionally and spiritually. Case examples of how offenders use religion in the abuse of children will also be presented. Attendees will receive concrete information on recognizing signs that a child has been physically abused, sexually abused, or neglected.

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 **Policies and pastoral care.** Attendees will learn best practices for church policies to prevent abuse and, when it can’t be prevented, to respond with excellence. Policies for managing a convicted sex offender in the congregation will also be discussed. A primer on pastoral care for both survivors and offenders will be presented.

12:00-12:45 Lunch

12:45-2:00 **Recognizing and responding to developmentally appropriate and inappropriate sexual behaviors of children.** This workshop gives an overview of sexual development in children and provides concrete information for responding to inappropriate sexual behaviors. The appropriate treatment of juveniles with sexual behavior problems will also be presented. The workshop includes a number of case examples.

2:00-2:15 Break

2:15-3:30 **Responding to allegations of child abuse within a congregation.** In this interactive presentation, students will be presented with a case of child sexual abuse arising within a congregation. Working as small groups, students will discuss the various challenges resulting from the case and develop a plan for an appropriate response to the needs of the victim, offender, and community.

*Please note that this conference addresses the issue of child abuse in concrete terms. This includes case studies of child abuse which may be emotionally impactful. If you are concerned about the content and the possibility this may trigger painful memories, please speak to a counselor or pastor in advance of the conference and practice self-care during the workshops.*