



Press Kit

First United Methodist Foundation Building
750 W. Fifth Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Crime Victims Council History

Crime Victims Council is an outreach ministry of First United Methodist Church of Ft. Worth, Texas, www.myfumc.org. The ministry originated in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1988 by Dr. Bruce Cook, Executive Director and Chaplain of Crime Victims Advocacy Council in Atlanta. In 2005 Dr. Cook received a grant to expand this ministry across the United States.

Rev. Sandra J. Lydick was selected for the Central Texas area. She is an endorsed crime victims chaplain and a Licensed Master Social Worker. She has served churches in the Central Texas area before becoming a victim's chaplain. Since 2006 she has established Crime Victims Council as a 501(c)3 charitable non-profit organization to assist crime victims in their healing by providing

- pastoral counseling services
- community education
- annual interfaith service for victims, their families, friends, and community
- crime prevention
- raising community consciousness, and
- advocacy for crime victims' rights

Crime Victims Council has hosted four powerfully blessed interfaith services for victims, their families, friends, and the community. Interfaith services of Help, Hope, and Healing are held on the first Sunday of National Crime Victims Rights Awareness Week. The service is open to all victims of any crime.

The first service was held on April 22, 2007, at First United Methodist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas. The 2008, 2009, 2010 services were held at Goodwill Industries, Ft. Worth, Texas, and were Interfaith Services including Muslim, Christian, and Jewish participation.

Crime Victims Council networks in the community with other victim assistance and crime prevention agencies. Crime Victims Council is a member of Tarrant County Coalition of Crime Victim Services (TCCCVS) and Tarrant County Council on Family Violence (TCCFV). Rev. Lydick is a member of the Clergy and Police Alliance Program (C.A.P.A.), a coalition of pastors who work in partnership with the police department to serve the citizens of Ft. Worth. CAPA members attend monthly meetings, ride along with police officers, and are called in to help citizens in crisis.

Mission & Vision

Mission

Crime Victims Council seeks to help crime victims cope with their suffering and pain. We will aid crime victims throughout their healing process by concentrating our energies and resources in the following areas: providing individual counseling and support groups, community education, crime prevention, raising community consciousness and acting as an advocate for crime victims' rights. Crime Victims Council will be the eyes, ears, and voice for restorative healing and justice for victims of crime.

Vision

Crime Victims Council will make a significant impact on the lives of crime victims by aiding in their healing process. We strive to glorify God and focus on the needs of victims.



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About Rev. Sandra Lydick

Rev. Sandra Lydick, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, has served as an Associate and Senior Pastor in United Methodist churches in the Central Texas Conference. Sandra is endorsed by the United Methodist Endorsing Agency as a pastoral counselor and crime victims chaplain. She is also a Licensed Master Social Worker and served as a social worker and chaplain for Early Childhood Intervention in Arlington.

Currently she is serving as Executive Director and Chaplain for Crime Victims Council, a non-profit agency and outreach ministry of First United Methodist Church, providing services to crime victims of all faiths in Central Texas. Crime Victims Council provides counseling, training, an annual interfaith service of Help, Hope, and Healing, community education, and crime prevention. The Council engages in raising community consciousness and acts as an advocate for crime victims' rights. Rev. Lydick is a member of The Clergy and Police Alliance Program (C.A.P.A), a coalition of pastors who work in partnership with the police department to serve the citizens of Fort Worth. Rev. Lydick serves on the counseling staff of The Center for Creative Transformation, www.centerforcreativetransformation.com, the counseling ministry of the First United Methodist Church.

Sandra is an advocate for women and women in leadership; she served as Co-Convener of the Women's Caucus of the United Methodist Church, and editor of The Yellow Ribbon, national newsletter for the Women's Caucus. She was a founding member and Co-Convener of The Women's Leadership Team of the South Central Jurisdiction that supports women and minorities for the episcopacy.

Rev. Lydick studies and practices Ericksonian Hypnotherapy and Self-Relations Psychotherapy. She has taught and practiced yoga for over 35 years. Sandra is a published author with a chapter, "Applications of Self Relations in Religious Settings, Healing Communities, and Faith Development," in *Walking in Two Worlds: the Relational Self in Theory, Practice, and Community*, Stephen Gilligan, Ph.D. and Dvorah Simon, Ph.D., editors.

She is currently serving as a volunteer Red Cross Disaster Mental Health professional and has served as a volunteer facilitator at The Warm Place for children ages 3 – 5 who are grieving the loss of a parent, sibling, or grandparent.

What We Do

Annual Interfaith service

Crime Victims Council hosts an annual interfaith service held on the first Sunday of National Crime Victims Rights Awareness Week for victims, their families, friends and the community. The service is open to all victims of any crime and is an Interfaith Service of Help, Hope, and Healing. The first service was held on April 22, 2007. It was the first community wide service in Tarrant County to address victims' need for spiritual healing and support following acts of violence.

Pastoral Care Division

Crime Victims Council provides pastoral counseling for individuals or groups regardless of one's faith or religion. Assessment, information and referral assist victims in receiving services that fit their needs. Rev.



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Lydick, an endorsed victim chaplain, provides counseling on a sliding scale basis, and can assist victims and their families who experience a crisis of faith or have spiritual issues as a result of a violent or serious crime. Pastoral counseling is also available to older adult victims, or with older adults who have a family member who has been the victim of a crime. Crime Victims Council seeks to partner with community groups providing services for older adults, and to increase awareness with faith-based groups as to the needs of older adults and how to access available services. Call 817-675-6367 to learn more.

Education & Training

One of our greatest potential gifts as Faith Communities is to provide sanctuaries for healing. Victims of crime need caring persons to support them through the healing process. Crime Victims Council offers training for church and community groups in ways they can assist victims by listening and encouraging, providing support as they attend court appointments, and helping with daily needs.

Programs can be provided about Crime Victims Council, its mission and ministry. Training equips groups to provide nurture and support for victims within their faith community and the community around them including how to start a similar crime victims ministry.

What Is Restorative Justice? A program to teach the Biblical roots of restoring justice following acts of violence. Restorative Justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense and identify and address harms, needs, and obligations, in order to heal and put things as right as possible.

Community Consciousness

Crime Victims Council networks in the community with other victim assistance and crime prevention agencies. Crime Victims Council is a member of Tarrant County Coalition of Crime Victim Services and Tarrant County Council on Family Violence. We partner with local law enforcement in an effort to bring our presence closer to the communities we serve. We also partner with several businesses and organizations throughout the community in order to further the mission of the Crime Victims Council and the people we serve.

Further Information & Press Release:

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