

## **Our History**

In 1977, Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune founded FaithTrust Institute. As a pastor of a congregation and volunteer at a local rape crisis center, Marie realized that women were not receiving the help they needed from their congregations and clergy when seeking refuge from domestic violence or sexual abuse. Today, FaithTrust Institute remains dedicated to educating congregations, laity, clergy and community advocates throughout the United States and in other countries on the religious issues related to sexual and domestic violence.

## **Our Mission**

FaithTrust Institute provides religious leaders and community advocates with the tools and knowledge they need to address the religious and cultural issues related to abuse.

## **Our Vision**

FaithTrust Institute envisions a world where religious institutions create a climate in which abuse is not tolerated; faith communities become sanctuaries of safety, worthy of our trust; and all of us experience justice and healing in our communities.

## **Program Initiatives**

FaithTrust Institute provides training, consulting, and educational materials for congregations, denominations, seminaries, chaplains, pastoral counselors, religious educators and more:

### *Congregational Safety and Health*

- Training and educating clergy and lay leaders on creating and sustaining healthy and safe congregations, emphasizing the prevention of child sexual abuse.

### *Healthy Families*

- Providing educational print and video materials addressing child abuse, domestic violence, and healthy teen relationships.
- Training religious leaders to engage their communities in being part of a comprehensive community response to domestic violence.

### *Clergy Ethics*

- Offering specifically designed training and educational materials to help religious institutions of all faiths reduce incidents of sexual abuse by clergy and to train clergy on appropriate boundaries.
- Addressing professional ethics and sexual abuse through theological education.

### *Trafficking of Persons and Sexual Exploitation*

- Addressing global trafficking through education for clergy and lay leaders.
- Providing print and video educational materials addressing sexual violence.

In order to advance our mission, FaithTrust Institute seeks contributions from many partners including congregations, church women's organizations, individuals and denominations.