



Plenary Sessions

“Is anyone listening to the searing voice of the victim?” with Frank Keating

When Governor Keating resigned as chairman of the National Review Board in June of 2003, he said “...our church is a faith institution. A home to Christ’s people. It is not a criminal enterprise... It does not condone and cover up criminal activity. It does not follow a code of silence,” he added. “My remarks, which some bishops found offensive, were deadly accurate. I make no apology. To resist grand jury subpoenas, to suppress the names of offending clerics, to deny, to obfuscate, to explain away: that is the model of a criminal organization, not my church.” He’ll explain this quote and evaluate whether things have improved.

“Unto a Third Generation” with Victor Vieth

In this moving, hopeful address, participants will learn the five obstacles that prevent us from significantly reducing child abuse in the United States. More importantly, students will learn of sweeping reforms now taking place in the country that will significantly reduce, if not eliminate child abuse within three generations.

“Called to Make Justice” with Marie Fortune

Justice is the foundation of healing, accountability, and reform of our churches. It is the work of the whole community. So we are all called to this shared task. What does it look like? How do we do this work together?

“Beyond Forgiveness. Breaking the Cycle of Trauma” with Angela Shelton

"It is time we got off the Trauma Train and get a ticket for the Joy Jet. Enough trauma, we need some Giggle Therapy!" Angela says. "And forgiveness? How about forgive this!" She asks why so many of us live with pain and suffering because of what others did to us and why we keep repeating traumatic cycles over and over again? In this powerful presentation, Angela tells how she has spoken to over 30,000 survivors and seen common threads from trauma=health problems to the repeated cycle of violence that victims fall into and how to break that cycle. Angela takes you through her powerful and hilarious powerpoint on Removing the Sword of Trauma and Reclaiming Your Power as she speaks and leaves you inspired, uplifted and giggling.

“Surviving and escaping: How Cults thrive and exploit the vulnerable” with

Survivors of abuse within cults suffer enormous consequences. This panel will include an expert who will provide an overview of how and why cults thrive and three survivors who have escaped. Each survivor will detail their personal journeys and provide suggestions for how our society can help those still trapped in the grips of these evil and abusive lifestyles. The survivors escaped from the “Legionnaires,” the “Children of God” and FLDS, Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In 2008 over 400 children were removed from their homes because of allegations of sexual abuse and polygamy. While the children were later returned to their homes the questions as to whether the children have basic protections promised by the US constitution have not been answered. This session will explore these issues and more.

“Redressing Problematic Language in Sexual Violence Narratives to Fight Eroticism, Victim-blaming, and Harmless and Vague Terms in Social and Legal Discourse” with Wendy Murphy

The language used to describe sexual violence can dramatically affect our understanding of the nature of the resulting harm and negatively affect our ability to hold social and legal institutions accountable. Disparate definitions from different sources can create an unclear scene for the recipient of information, leading to a misunderstanding of the truth and even a perpetuation of harmful stereotypes and myths about victims and offenders as well as the impact of sexual violence on individuals and society.

“Baptist-land: Mapping the terrain” with Christa Brown

Where do we stand in the nation’s largest Protestant denomination? How do we escape the quicksand of a congregationalist polity that pretends each of 43,000 churches is completely independent? How do we connect the dots to link-up a trail of accountability in a buck-stops-nowhere system? Christa Brown explores these questions and others as she recounts her journey out of “the land of bondage.”

“Process and Challenges: Empowering Victims & Creating Change” with Eric Barragan

Eric Barragan has been worked with survivors in Mexico, a country with one of the most ‘predatory friendly’ jurisdictions. With coaxing and empowerment, survivors have been able to step forward, making SNAP Mexico one of the fastest growing SNAP groups in the world. Hear him describe how he used his community organizing skills and techniques to find other survivors, educate the public and change the laws of government in Mexico.

“Updating the Scorecard: Bishops Who Enable Abuse” with Terry McKiernan

Seven years after Dallas, BishopAccountability.org provides a scorecard of enabling bishops, updating the famous Dallas Morning News database. This talk will also let SNAP members know about recent additions to our document archives, our database of accused priests and nuns, and our archive of media coverage.