

Pastoral Counseling For Reproductive Loss

A Workshop for Clergy, Future Clergy and Religious Leaders of All Faiths

Thursday, November 10, 2011, 9 am - 3 pm

Law's Lodge, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
1044 Alta Vista Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40205

Led by Rev. Matthew Westfox, Director of Interfaith Outreach
for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and
Associate Pastor of All Souls Bethlehem Church in Brooklyn, NY.



Sponsored by
**Kentucky Religious Coalition
for Reproductive Choice**
(502) 744-6665



and
**The Women's Center
at Louisville Seminary**
(502) 894-2285

As part of our work to better equip clergy to act for reproductive justice, the **Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (KRCRC)** is proud to offer this Pastoral Counseling for Reproductive Loss Workshop. Co-sponsoring the workshop is **The Women's Center at Louisville Seminary**.

WHAT: A training and workshop session in Pastoral Counseling for Reproductive Loss. This seminar provides clergy, seminarians and religious leaders with the information and skills they need to be an effective pastoral presence for people mourning a reproductive loss. A **\$25 fee** (no fee for seminary students) **covers your registration and lunch**.

WHY: Any reproductive loss, whether through miscarriage, infertility, stillbirth, abortion or adoption, can carry with it a range of feelings, including feelings of grief, loss, loneliness, regret, relief, and sadness. While all these are normal responses to such an event, people experiencing reproductive loss often feel the need to talk to someone about their feelings, and the need to find a sympathetic and supportive clergy person to help them.

Our skills as pastoral counselors can do much to help restore emotional health for those who have experienced these losses and are coping with one or more of these feelings. A person who hurts after any reproductive loss deserves our compassion, attention, and skill. That person deserves to be counseled by clergy who will show respect for a woman's pregnancy experience and

to her family's grieving, who will hear both the good and the bad as they see it, and who will support and not judge them. People deserve religious counseling and ritual that will rejoice with them when they want to rejoice, and lament with them when they want to lament. People need to know that their religious communities can be a place to turn for support and healing.

This curriculum, "Pastoral Counseling for Reproductive Loss," provides clergy with the information and skills they need to be an effective pastoral presence for people mourning a reproductive loss. We will address the various kinds of reproductive loss, and how these issues impact both women and family members. We will also discuss the particular issues involved around reproductive loss for those in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities. Covering medical, emotional, and spiritual issues, the curriculum also provides rituals and an extensive bibliography of both print and on-line resources.

We hope you will join us!

QUESTIONS: Contact either KRCRC's Kat Allen, (502) 744-6665, kallen.krcrc@gmail.com; or Heather Thiessen, Director of The Women's Center, (502) 894-2285, WOMENSCENTER@lpts.edu. If you cannot attend but may be interested in attending future trainings in your area, please contact us and we will let you know about upcoming trainings!

Yes, I'd like to attend "Pastoral Counseling for Reproductive Loss" on November 10, 2011.

Name (include title) _____ ☐ Clergy ☐ Seminary student ☐ Other _____
Denomination _____ Congregation _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

Please mail form and \$25 check (free for seminary students) (includes registration and lunch), **made out to KRCRC, to:**
KRCRC, P.O. Box 4065, Louisville, KY 40204-0065 **no later than November 4**. You will receive email confirmation of registration.