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Washington Theological Consortium to Host Ecumenical Student Workshop on Relationships and Sexual Misconduct

'Healthy Boundaries in Ministry: Professional Ethics and Sexuality' to Take Place March 2 at Howard University School of Divinity

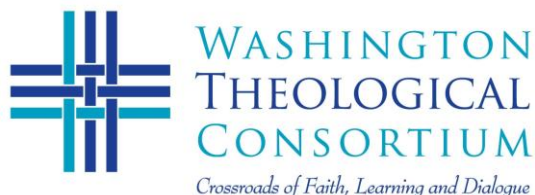
[Washington, February 21, 2019] – The Washington Theological Consortium announces a workshop for students from its member schools exploring the vocational and professional challenges of healthy relationships and issues of sexual misconduct in an ecumenical context and with peers in other churches.

The day-long workshop will be led by two nationally known trainers in this area – Kate Ott, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Christian Social Ethics, Drew University and School of Theology; and Rev. Dr. Stephen Rossetti, Professor of Pastoral Theology, Catholic University School of Theology and Religious Studies.

Taking place Saturday, March 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C., the workshop will focus on healthy boundaries and relationships in ministry, theological and ethical framing of the issues, and skills and resources for responding well to situations or signs of boundary-crossings. It will not be a rehash of what individual denominations, churches, or schools offer, as the student-oriented process and ecumenical approach will give it a distinct value for ministry formation.

It is the position of the Consortium that the negative-only news in the press, the strength of the #MeToo movement, and the growing concern among church leaders needs a concrete and positive response from many ecclesial and denominational groups. The theological schools of the Consortium provide a perfect forum for equipping future and current church leaders to institute healthy and safe practices in their churches and ministry.

“Sexual misconduct takes place in all the churches, so this pro-active, ecumenical approach to training seminarians is timely and vital,” noted Rev. Larry Golemon, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Consortium and an ordained Presbyterian minister.



While the event is open only to students of Consortium member schools, the press is encouraged to attend by making arrangements with Rev. Golemon, at (202) 832-2675 or lgolemon@washtheocon.org.

Student registration and further event details can be found at washtheocon.org/boundaries. Downloadable press materials are available [here](#).

Dr. Ott, who is the author of [Sex and the Seminary: Preparing Ministers for Sexual Health and Justice](#), noted about the 'Healthy Boundaries' event:

"With today's level of awareness of the pervasiveness and harm caused by sexual harassment and abuse, it is necessary that seminaries commit to intentional and ongoing professional sexual ethics training. The ecumenical nature of this healthy boundaries and sexual harassment prevention workshop allows students to gain resources from various denominations as well as serve as resources to each other in their future ministry contexts."

[Learn more about Dr. Ott's Publications and Qualifications.](#)

Added Msgr. Rossetti, who is co-author of the article "Learning from Our Mistakes: Responding Effectively to Child Sexual Abusers":

"We have all been shocked by media accounts detailing the abuse of power and sexually exploitive behaviors of some ministers of the Gospel in this country and beyond. Moreover, we are finding out that such harmful behaviors are found throughout our societies and cultures. No country and no religion are immune. The solution begins with raising awareness and training people in prevention. All ministers of the Gospel, Protestant and Catholic, are called to be in the forefront of this effort as an integral part of their ministry. The Gospel mandate necessarily includes our creating a safe society for all."

[Learn more about Msgr. Rossetti's Publications and Qualifications.](#)

About the Washington Theological Consortium

The Washington Theological Consortium is a community of theological schools and partners from diverse traditions that pursue ecumenical dialogue, interfaith understanding, and educational collaboration to better equip clergy and laity for the ministry of the Church in a diverse society.

For more information, please contact Rev. Larry Golemon, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Washington Theological Consortium, at (202) 832-2675 or lgolemon@washtheocon.org.