

PRAYER OF FAITH TO HELP END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In unity with all Covenant churches, let us pray to the Lord.

We gather in sorrow as we recall so many women among us who have suffered domestic violence of all types – physical, psychological, spiritual, or financial.

We gather in righteous anger that these things continue with seemingly no end in sight. We gather in hope that our commitment and our actions will matter and bring about change.

We come repenting that we have not always heard, nor have we always acted. Sometimes we have turned away rather than stand beside a woman who has been victimized.

Hear the cries of those who have been harmed, O God. Strengthen us to call to account those who have caused harm. Rebuke their careless and exploitative acts. Help us to teach them a better way, the way of godly love.

Enlighten those in our communities who are also called upon to help – judges, police officers, doctors, clergy, legislators, therapists, and others – so that their decisions and actions will bring forth justice and healing, praying especially for the restoring sense of your created image, the redeeming presence of Jesus, and the releasing power of the Spirit.

Send forth this Body as witnesses, renewed in our commitment to stand in solidarity with every woman who has been harmed by abuse and violence. Encourage us in our efforts to comfort the afflicted, confront the assailants, and to be your prophetic voice in our own communities so that silence may no more mask the injustice of violence against women.

We pray for God's love and justice to heal our hurt and to hasten the day when women no longer live with the fear of abuse in their homes, workplaces, religious assemblies, or communities. We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday
Advocacy for Victims of Abuse
Evangelical Covenant Church

Revised from the Interfaith Prayer used at the first *Interfaith Breakfast: A Call To End Violence Against Women*, sponsored by **Faith Trust Institute** (formerly the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence). 8/06

Revised by Rev. Dr. C. John Weborg 8/07