HEALING COMMUNITIES RESOURCE GUIDE

BOOKS

Recovering from Un-Natural Disasters (Laurie Kraus, David Holyen, Bruce Wismer)
A must-read handbook for pastors and church leaders of communities who could or perhaps already have experienced an un-natural disaster, such as gun violence, suicides, or sexual abuse.

Healing Spiritual Wounds (Carol Howard Merritt)
An effective plan to help those suffering from wounds inflicted by the church find spiritual healing and a renewed sense of faith.

The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind and Body in the Healing of Trauma (Bessel Van der Kolk, MD)
One of the world's foremost experts on trauma uses scientific advances to show how trauma reshapes both body and brain, and explores innovative treatments to recovery by activating the brain's natural neuroplasticity.

Sacred Wounds: A Path to Healing from Spiritual Trauma (Theresa Pasquale)
Professional therapist, yoga instructor, and meditation retreat facilitator brings mindfulness and hearing into her work for social justice.

The #MeToo Reckoning: Facing the Church's Complicity in Sexual Abuse and Misconduct (Ruth Everhart)
Pastor Everhart offers hope as she declares God is at work in the midst of this #MeToo moment to call the church to repentance and deliver us from violence against the vulnerable. Scriptural narratives like those of Tamar and Bathsheba carry powerful resonance, as do the accounts of Jesus' interactions with women. Available Jan. 2020.

99 Prayers Your Church Needs But Doesn't Know It Yet (Cara Gilger, Editor)
Prayers of hope, courage and reliance on God's grace your congregation needs when the unexpected comes. Subjects cover a wide range of potentially challenging situations, including instances of pastoral sexual misconduct.

Psalms of Lament (Ann Weems)
Noted writer, speaker, liturgist and worship leader, Ann Weems draws from the rich heritage of the Psalms to give voice to grief and suffering.

WEBSITES

Creating Safe Ministries
https://www.pcusa.org/legal/creating-safe-ministries
God intends for the church and its ministries to be a safe place for all encounter God. This website is designed to help all ministries be safe ministries.

Justiceunbound.org
An online journal and community that examines, expresses, and provokes social justice as inspired by the prophetic gospel of Jesus Christ.

Faithtrustinstitute.org
https://www.faithtrustinstitute.org/news-documents/CURRICULUM%20FOR%20CLERGY%20and%20SPIRITUAL%20LEADERS.pdf
Resources to address Healthy Boundaries in faith communities.

ARTICLES

Hearing the Silence, Healing the Pain
https://www.pcusa.org/resource/hearing-silence-healing-pain-stories-professional-misconduct-through-sexual-abuse-church-1993
Shared Stories of Professional Misconduct Through Sexual Abuse in the Church

The Persistence of Trauma and the Power of Belief
http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/the-persistence-of-trauma-and-the-power-of-belief/
"I believe you." We should never underestimate the power of these words. What's more, God calls us, as people of faith, to speak these words in our relationships and our larger communities.

Resolution on Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse Against Educators (with Study Guide)
https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2-allegations-resolution-2004.pdf
A resolution from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy regarding abuse in educational settings.