

Dinah Project introduces spiritual response to sexual violence

Metropolitan Interdenominational Church will introduce The Dinah Project, a three-part spiritual response to sexual violence in our communities on Sunday, June 1, at 6 p.m.

A worship service calling for community recognition of sexual violence in our midst will be held in the church's meeting house at 2128 11th Ave. N.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Renita J. Weems, author of *Just A Sister Away; I Asked For Intimacy* and *Battered Love: Marriage, Sex, and Violence in the Hebrew Prophets*. She is also Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Vanderbilt Divinity School and an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

This service is the first of three worship services.

"We hope and pray that The Dinah Project will help us to take collective responsibility for the crime prevention, and healing of sexual violence in our midst," stated the Rev. Monica Coleman, pastoral assistant at the church and the project coordinator, "We believe that the church and the community of faith should be a safe place to mourn and to heal from the tragedy of the world."

Themes of forgiveness and healing will be the focus of the remaining services.

The Dinah Project will also provide educational workshops for clergy and laity to promote the

awareness and appropriate response to sexual violence in the community.

The Project will also coordinate counseling services that address the spiritual and theological issues for

the victims, perpetrators and the communities that love them.

According to organizers, a goal is to refuse to perpetuate the silence associated with incest, child sexual abuse sexual assault and rape. ♦



Dr. Renita J. Weems