

**Moral Shocks:
Christian Resources for Public Grief and Social Change**

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Moral shocks: unexpected events or pieces of information that so deeply challenge a person's basic values and worldview that they fragment their understanding of life and even self.

Orienting Question:

How can people of faith and our religious resources come alongside people experiencing moral agony and rupture?

Private Grief → Public Lament → Political Grievance

Religious Resources for Accompaniment:

- Practiced, purposeful pathos
- Public lament
- Networked resources (materially, relationally, theologically)
- Sustenance through storied engagement
- Missional crossing of constructed divides

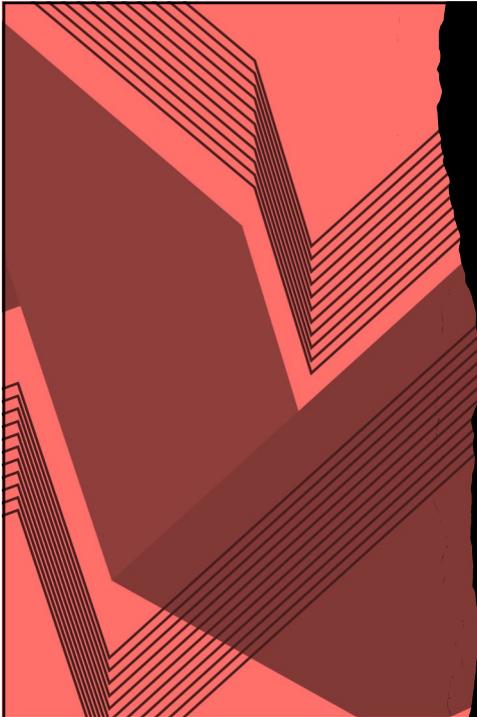
Restating Our Question:

How do we help folks **identify their moral distress, *respect and walk with it,* and move** from a path of privatization that serves the powerful to a path of public grief and political grievance that embraces the flourishing of the whole?

Christianity is a movement based on a moral shock.

Good Friday,
Holy Saturday,

and the Women at the Tomb
invite us to attend to grief
and tell the other disciples...of the greatest hope...
that death is not the last word.



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May 7, 2024*

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Moral shocks:

unexpected events or pieces of information that so deeply challenge a person's basic values and worldview that they fragment their understanding of life and even self.

can lead to self-mobilizing into social movements.

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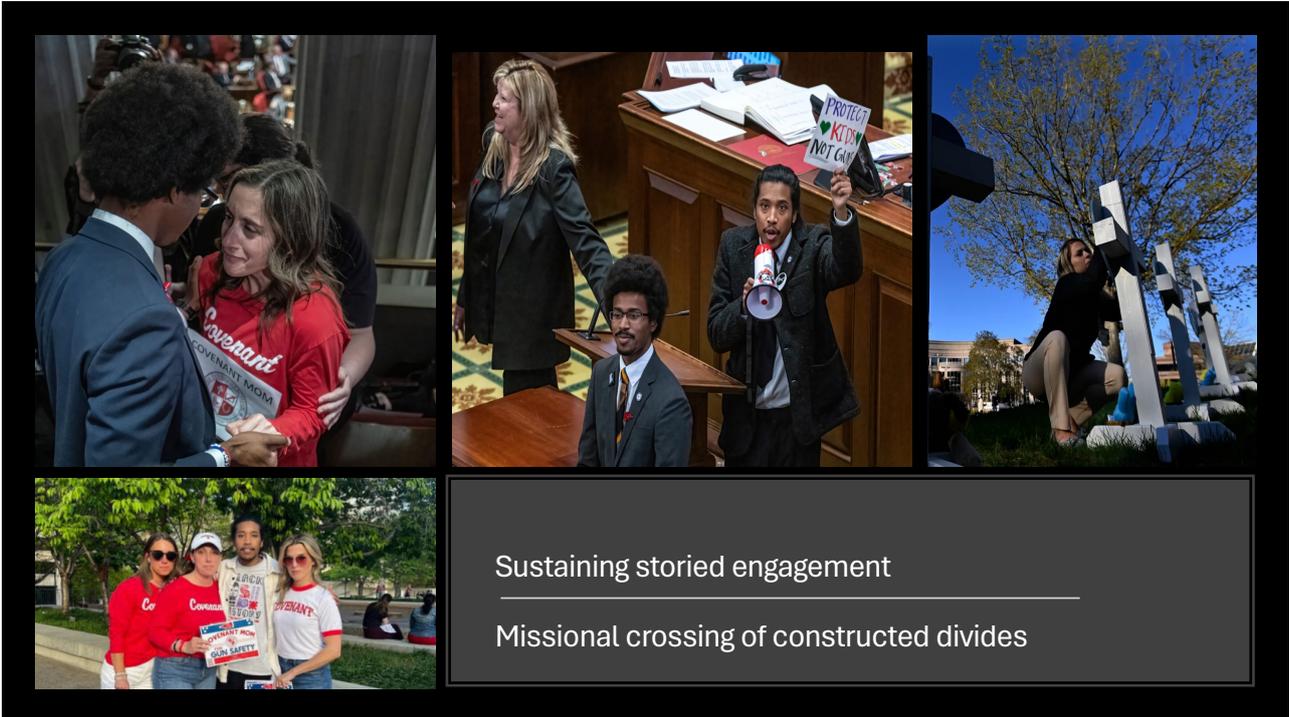
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lament, earnest and soul-deep searching, can hold us when we begin again and again to step out of the folds of old wounds and live anew as we refuse to let the howling specters of displacement and trauma to keep us from reaching into ourselves as we stretch our arms in welcome.”

emilie townes

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