



Rev. Dr. Prathia Hall



Rev. Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor

UNLEASHING THE JOY

Hall-Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry

July 15-18, 2024



**children's
defense fund**
unleashing the joy in growing up





The 30th Annual Hall-Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry

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Hall-Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry

Unleashing the Joy

Welcome Home!

“Alex Haley’s Farm is the folk school for life, for character building, and for citizenship and leadership training...to embody our vision of a renewed Black extended community family – a place where all generations can come and reconnect and teach and nurture and be nurtured and prepare ourselves for the transformation of our families, communities, and nation; a place to mentor and train the new servant-leaders for the 1990s and 21st century; a place to model the behavior we seek to replicate in every community and family; a place to talk and sing and write and dance and laugh and prepare to re-enter the world with new energy and a clear shared vision.” – Marian Wright Edelman (March 11, 1994)

These words, penned by our founder and president emerita 30 years ago, expressed Children’s Defense Fund’s sense of vocation for the sacred grounds where we have put down roots. Each year since, people of faith in God and children have gathered at the invitation of ancestors and elders to pursue a bold yet evasive vision for child well-being in America. Whether this is a return trip, or your first visit, you are home.

In this place, the Rev. Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor, our first pastor-in-residence, the Rev. Dr. Prathia Hall, co-chair of the Black Church Initiative of the Black Community Crusade for Children, the Rev. Dr. Joan Parrott, vice president for Haley Farm Leadership Development and Spiritual Renewal, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., co-chair of the Black Church Initiative of the Black Community Crusade for Children and our co-pastor-in-residence for two decades alongside his son and co-pastor, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, have called for Beloved Community—a place where our children play freely in parks, walk safely to bus stops, and grow up in schools as sanctuaries with neighbors and public servants as guardians of their well-being.



With this legacy, this year we gather at the Hall-Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry under the theme, **UNLEASHING THE JOY: FAITH IN PURSUIT OF CHILD WELL-BEING**. In prayer and plenaries, workshops and worship, preaching and play, we will construct theologies of child well-being, renew ministries of child advocacy, and refresh our passion to plant seeds of the world we want for our children and grandchildren. This grounding theme emerges from CDF’s mission, as re-envisioned in 2023:

CHILDREN’S DEFENSE FUND BUILDS COMMUNITY SO YOUNG PEOPLE GROW UP WITH DIGNITY, HOPE, AND JOY.

Thank you for putting your hand to the plow. We are excited by a convergence of key constituencies, capacity-building cohorts, and campaigns this week, fulfilling our intergenerational hope. These include:

- *Practicing Resurrection* Cohort, supported by Lilly Endowment’s Thriving Congregations Initiative;

- *Welcome Home* Program Cohort, supported by the Lilly Endowment's Young Adult Initiative;
- *A Little Child Shall Lead Them: Mobilizing Faith for Prenatal-to-Three Development*, supported by the Pritzker Children's Initiative;
- *Dale Andrews Freedom Seminary* for seminarians;
- *Black Student Leadership Network* Ambassadors; and
- *CDF Freedom Schools*® scholars and Ella Baker Trainers.

Finally, please join me in thanking the volunteers and staff working to make the Institute happen. Our co-pastors, co-chaplains, co-deans, chapel dean, Movement Building, *CDF Freedom Schools*, Communications, and Operations staff collaborate to give this space, life, hospitality, and meaning. Thank you.

For our children,
Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson
President & CEO




About Rev. Dr. Prathia Hall

Rev. Dr. Prathia Hall (1940-2002) was a prominent civil rights activist, educator, and preacher dedicated to justice, equality, and the empowerment of marginalized communities. Born in Philadelphia, she grew up in a family committed to civil rights and was inspired to challenge systemic oppression. Rev. Dr. Hall attended Temple University and became involved in non-violent direct action through Fellowship House and later the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), working with leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ella Baker. Known for her powerful oratory, she organized voter registration drives and fought racial segregation. After the Civil Rights Movement, she pursued theological education at Princeton Theological Seminary, earning her Master of Divinity degree and Ph.D., and became a key figure in the African American religious community. Rev. Dr. Hall taught at several institutions, focusing on African American studies, theology, and social justice. Prior to her death, Rev. Dr. Hall served as Children's Defense Fund's co-chair of the Black Church Initiative of the Black Community Crusade for Children, and in 2023, the Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry was renamed in her honor.



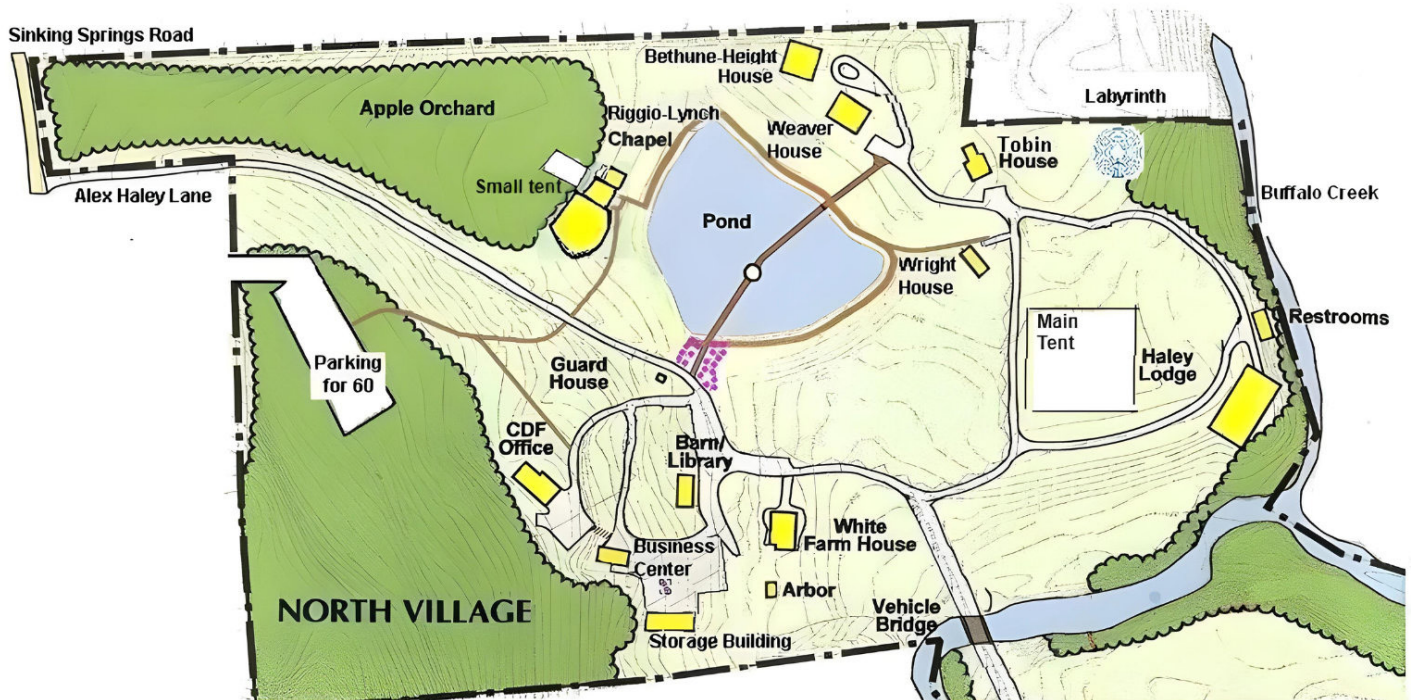
About Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor

Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor (1921-1997) was the first pastor-in-residence for Children's Defense Fund's Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. He led morning devotions with wisdom, humor, intellect, and powerful preaching, setting a lasting tone for the Institute. His final sermon, "Mr. Sceva and His Seven Sons," was unforgettable. Following his death in 1997, the Institute was renamed in his honor. Dr. Proctor was known for his dynamic presence and focus on God's leading and justice for children. He served as President of both North Carolina A&T State University and Virginia Union University, and as a senior official in the Peace Corps in Nigeria, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the National Council of Churches. Dr. Proctor was pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church and taught at United Theological Seminary, Duke University, Kean College, and Drew University. He was a Lyman Beecher lecturer at Yale University Divinity School and served on several boards, including the United Negro College Fund and National Urban League. Dr. Proctor received honorary doctorates from more than 50 colleges and universities and authored several books.



History of CDF's Alex Haley Farm

In 1994, Children's Defense Fund purchased the farm and former home of author and activist Alex Haley to create a center for spiritual renewal, leadership development, mentoring, and movement building. In 1995, Marian Wright Edelman and Shannon Daley-Harris launched the Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry to offer spiritual renewal, networking, education, and skills-building for faith leaders and laypeople committed to child advocacy. Since then, thousands of leaders from diverse backgrounds have attended seminars at CDF Haley Farm, including scholars and coordinators for CDF Freedom Schools® programs. Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, CDF Haley Farm is renowned for its unique and warm hospitality, and its two Maya Lin-designed buildings—the Langston Hughes Library and the Riggio-Lynch Interfaith Chapel—stand as testaments to this. Hall-Proctor Institute provides up-to-date information on children's needs, strengthens advocacy skills, promotes model programs, and explores theology related to children, families, and justice. Participants deepen their understanding of nurturing, protecting, and seeking justice for young people.



CDF Hall-Proctor Institute Leaders

Elder-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Valerie

Bridgeman is dean and vice president of Academic Affairs and associate professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible at Methodist Theological School of Ohio. She is also the founding president and CEO of WomanPreach! Inc., a leading nonprofit empowering preachers toward prophetic voice. Ordained in 1977, Dr. Bridgeman achieved elder status in the United Methodist Church's West Ohio Conference in June 2024. Active in academic guilds, Dr. Bridgeman has been honored by the Society for the Study of Black Religion and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegium of Scholars and Preachers at Morehouse College. A peace activist and human rights advocate, she integrates these values into her academic and ministerial leadership.



Elder-in-Residence Dr. Farah Jasmine

Griffin is the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where she was the inaugural chair of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Department. A Harvard graduate with a Ph.D. from Yale in American Studies, Professor Griffin is a prolific author and editor of eight books, including award-winning titles like *Who Set You Flowin'?* and *Read Until You Understand*. Her scholarship explores African American culture, jazz, and women artists' contributions during World War II. Recognized as a Guggenheim and Mellon Foundation Fellow, she continues to shape discourse on Black literature and cultural studies through her influential essays and academic leadership at Columbia.



Co-Minister of Music Professor Omar

Dickenson is the director of University Choirs and assistant professor in the Department of Music at Hampton University. He also serves as music director for the Choir Directors' & Organists' Guild of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference. Previously, he was director of Fine Arts at The Bethel Church in Jacksonville, Florida, and a faculty member of Florida State College of Jacksonville. Professor Dickenson holds degrees in mathematics from Hampton University, music from Edward Waters University, a Master of Music from Norfolk State University, and a Master of Education from Teachers College. He is a published composer and arranger, active as a clinician and church music consultant, with research interests in the music of African American church communities.



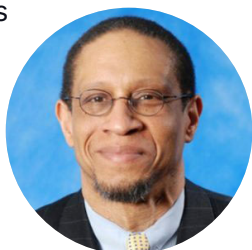
Elder-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Forrest Elliott

Harris, Sr., is the 10th president of American Baptist College (ABC), assuming leadership in 1999. With tenure placing him among the longest-serving leaders of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), he has fostered numerous new programs and initiatives focused on social justice advocacy and educational innovation. Dr. Harris is internationally recognized as a progressive scholar and theological educator renowned for bridging academic theology with justice activism. Under his leadership, ABC was recognized as an HBCU by the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Harris also hosts the radio program "Plumblin'" on SiriusXM Channel 142-HBCU and has authored several influential books. He holds faculty appointments at Vanderbilt University and directs the Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies.



Elder-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Obery Hendricks

is a prominent African American biblical scholar widely regarded as influential in America today. His diverse career spans roles as a Wall Street investment executive, theological seminary president, and Distinguished Senior Fellow at The Democracy Collaborative. He has contributed to U.S. foreign policy discussions under Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry. He currently serves as Visiting Scholar at Columbia University in Religion and African American Studies. Ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. Hendricks holds degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and Princeton University. Author of several books, including the bestselling book, *The Politics of Jesus and Christians Against Christianity*. Hendricks is also involved with the Institute of Christian Socialism and Public Religion Research Institute.



Dean of Chapel Rev. Dr. Alice Hunt is a change-oriented coach and consultant specializing in executive leadership, personal empowerment, governing boards, strategic planning, program development, theological education, and anti-racism. She offers expertise in addressing toxic patriarchy, administrative management, staff development, workshop facilitation, and small group facilitation. Visit www.alicehuntconsulting.com for more details. Previously, Dr. Hunt served as executive director of the American Academy of Religion until July 2023, advancing its mission in religious studies and public understanding. Her leadership roles include president of Chicago Theological Seminary (2008–2018) and associate dean at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Dr. Hunt's academic background spans degrees from the University of Montevallo (B.S.) and Vanderbilt University (M.T.S., M.A., Ph.D.). She is ordained with the National Baptist Convention and holds dual standing with the United Church of Christ.



Co-Chaplain-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson

is the president of Auburn Theological Seminary, promoting a multi-racial, multi-faith, multi-generational, and multi-ethnic democracy. Born in Newark, New Jersey, she graduated from Fisk University, Union Theological Seminary, and Drew Seminary. Before leading Auburn as its first Black woman and non-Presbyterian president, she was executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Children's Defense Fund-New York, Girls Incorporated of New York City, and executive vice president of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. The second woman ordained at The Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, she serves on several boards. She and her husband are proud parents to three amazing adults.



Healer-in-Residence Dr. Rhonda V. Magee

is a professor of law at the University of San Francisco. She is the author of *The Inner Work of Racial Justice: Healing Ourselves and Transforming Our Communities Through Mindfulness*, which is the first of its kind to thoroughly integrate mindfulness principles and practices into the conversation on addressing race and racism in diverse settings and communities. A trained mindfulness teacher and a founding advisor of the Mindfulness in Law Society, Dr. Magee is an internationally sought-after mindfulness teacher, keynote speaker, and a thought and practice innovator of mindfulness-based social justice principles, concepts, and practices.



Theologian-in-Residence Rev. Dr. AnneMarie Mingo

is an associate professor of Ethics, Culture, and Moral Leadership and director of the Metro-Urban Institute at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Her scholarship in Social Ethics focuses on the experiences of Black Churchwomen in the



Civil Rights Movement, integrating oral histories and ethnographies. She explores 20th and 21st Century Black Freedom Struggles, emphasizing the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement, and the Global Movement for Black Lives. Dr. Mingo authored *Have You Got Good Religion?: Black Women's Faith, Courage, and Moral Leadership in the Civil Rights Movement* (2024) and writes extensively on Black Church activism, peace, reconciliation, and the impact of Black music on social activism. An ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, she holds degrees from Florida A&M University, Rollins College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Emory University.

Co-Pastor-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Otis

Moss, Jr., is a renowned theologian, pastor, and civic leader. He earned degrees from Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Religion, and United Theological Seminary. Retiring in 2008 after 33 years at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, he previously held pastoral roles in Georgia, Ohio, and co-pastored with Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., at Ebenezer Baptist Church. A lifelong advocate for education and civil and human rights, Dr. Moss has been active in the Civil Rights Movement and has served on numerous boards, including Morehouse College. His international work spans multiple countries, and he has advised U.S. Presidents. Dr. Moss has received many awards, including induction into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in 2007.



Co-Pastor-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Otis

Moss III is a third-generation civil rights leader and Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago since 2008. He advocates for racial and social justice, focusing on issues like mass incarceration, environmental justice, and economic inequality. Dr. Moss is an author, with his latest book, *Dancing in the Darkness*, released in 2022. He earned degrees from



Morehouse College, Yale Divinity School, and Chicago Theological Seminary. Dr. Moss is a professor of homiletics at Mercer University and founder of the Unashamed Media Group. He is married to his college sweetheart, the former Monica Brown, a Spelman College and Columbia University graduate. They are the proud parents of two creative and humorous young adults, Elijah Wynton and Makayla Elon.

Co-Dean of the Dale P. Andrews Freedom Seminary Rev. Dr. Lorena M. Parrish

is an associate professor of Urban Ministries and director of the Community Engagement Institute and Center for Public Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary. Co-founder of Wesley's Specialization in Children and Youth Ministry and Child Advocacy Certificate Program, she is an ordained American Baptist minister and scholar-activist. Dr. Parrish's work centers on womanist, Black, and liberation theologies, urban ministry, and transformative justice. With a background spanning multicultural congregations and nonprofit leadership—including Girls Incorporated of NYC—she integrates faith, race, gender, economics, and social justice to address marginalization. Educating future leaders in innovative community engagement and advocating for disenfranchised communities, her contributions reshape theological teachings and foster inclusive, just practices in urban environments.



Scholar-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Brianna K.

Parker (Rev. Bri) is a faith leader, scholar, and data activist. She is CEO of Black Millennial Café, LLC (BMC), a consulting practice and data resource center for Black churches, communities, and organizations. She served as the lead researcher for Barna Group's State of the Black Church study and creator of the first-of-its-kind ministry development subscription program, BlackChurchLeader.com. Through the Black Millennial Café, Rev. Bri intentionally gathers data

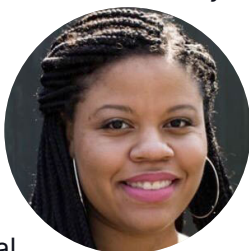


for understanding and transformation of Black communities. She lectures and presents empirical data on faith and concerns of Black communities nationwide. BMC resources include commissioned data and a suite of services for churches and organizations interested in faith or social impact.

Co-Dean of the Dale P. Andrews Freedom Seminary Rev. Dr. Patrick B. Reyes is a Chicano writer, theologian, and executive leader serving as Auburn Theological Seminary's Dean. He is the bestselling author of *The Purpose Gap* and *Nobody Cries When We Die*. Patrick has worked in higher education administration and the faith-based nonprofit sector. He supports the next generation of Black, Indigenous, and Chicano leaders through various theological and higher education boards, publications, and the nonprofit sector. Patrick is a board director for the American Academy of Religion. He has been recognized for his service and scholarship and inducted into the Morehouse College MLK Jr. Collegium of Scholars. Patrick holds a doctorate and master's from Claremont School of Theology, an M.Div. from Boston University, and is a California State University, Sacramento, graduate.



Co-Chaplain-in-Residence Minister Candace Simpson (she/they) is a religious educator from Brooklyn, New York. She is a graduate of Trinity College and Union Theological Seminary. Minister Simpson was site coordinator of Concord Baptist Church of Christ's *CDF Freedom Schools* program for several years. She also served on the pastoral team. Minister Simpson is the voice of the Fish Sandwich Heaven Podcast and the lead designer for the Fish Sandwich Heaven website. She is currently a Ph.D. student at Garrett Seminary in Christian Education and Congregational Studies. Their emerging project explores the possibilities and limits of Christian education as a method of political education. It is Candace's philosophy that Heaven is a revolution that must begin here on Earth.



Theologian-in-Residence Rev. Jim Wallis is the inaugural holder of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Chair in Faith and Justice at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy and the director of its new Center on Faith and Justice. He served on President Obama's first White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and is the author of multiple *New York Times* bestselling books, including his latest book, *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy*, which was released on April 2, 2024. In 2022 and 2023, *Washingtonian* magazine named Wallis one of D.C.'s 500 most influential people shaping policy. Wallis is also the founder of *Sojourners*.

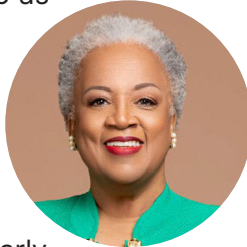


Co-Minister of Music Dr. Khyle B. Wooten (he/him) from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is associate director of Choral Activities and assistant professor of Music Education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is active as a conductor, educator, clinician, researcher, and composer. Previously, Dr. Wooten taught in charter schools in Philadelphia and Atlanta. His research focuses on Black women composers and choral music pedagogues, and he regularly presents at music conferences. As an inaugural fellow of the Future of Music Faculty Fellowship with the Cleveland Institute of Music, he has completed commissions for various ensembles. Dr. Wooten co-founded and conducts the Sankofa Vocal Collective in Atlanta. He holds degrees in music education and choral conducting from Lincoln University of Pennsylvania (B.S.), Georgia State University (M.M.), and Florida State University (Ph.D.).

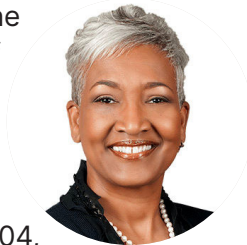


2024 Great Preachers

Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown holds the Bandy Professorship of Preaching at Candler School of Theology, endowed in 1986 as a premier chair in homiletics. Joining Candler in 1994, she made history in 2010 as its first African American woman full professor and directed the Black Church Studies program until 2015. Her scholarly focus spans homiletics, womanism, womanist ethics, socio-cultural transformation, and African diaspora history. Author of five monographs and numerous books, she integrates voice, body, and animation in proclamation. Ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Fry Brown serves as historiographer, executive director of research and scholarship, and editor of the AME Review. She is active in scholarly guilds such as the Society for the Study of Black Religion and the Academy of Homiletics.



Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale is the founding and senior pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Georgia, with over 45 years in ministry. She established ELAH Pastoral Ministries, Inc., in 2004, mentoring pastors and para-church leaders, and launched the Women in Ministry Conference in 2005. Dr. Hale authored *I'm A Piece of Work: Sisters Shaped by God* in 2010. Dr. Hale chairs the IC3 Conference Board, serves as president of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference, and sits on Hollins University and UNCF NFEI Advisory Council boards. She's an emeritus member of the Duke University Divinity School Board of Visitors and a member of the Welcome.US Council. A Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Dr. Hale holds a Bachelor of Arts from Hollins College, a Master of Divinity from Duke University, and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary.



Rev. Rashad Raymond Moore, PhD, is a pastor, philosopher, and preacher dedicated to repositioning tradition and ritual in historically Black institutions through prophetic disruption. His dissertation, *My Soul's Been Anchored: Tradition and Disruptive Imagining in Historically Black Education*, explores their transformative power in dismantling anti-blackness in education, sparking hope for a brighter future. Raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, he draws from a community steeped in enduring love, education, and prophetic ministry, shaping his life and vocation. Since 2019, Rev. Moore has led First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, known for its diverse and intergenerational richness. Beyond pastoral duties, he teaches at Teachers College and Columbia University, focusing on American and Africana Philosophies of Education, and lectures across New York City colleges.



Rev. Mahogany S. Thomas works at the intersection of social justice and advocacy in Washington, D.C. Originally from Missouri and now a Washingtonian, she champions equitable futures through radical hospitality. Recently appointed as Chief Program Officer at Bread for the City, a local nonprofit promoting human flourishing, Rev. Mahogany is ordained in the United Church of Christ (UCC) and formerly served as executive minister at Peoples Congregational UCC in D.C. She earned her Master of Divinity from Yale University. An award-winning public speaker, Rev. Mahogany recently explored Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s teachings and Womanist Theology as Scholar in Residence at Adas Israel Congregation. She also serves as Womanist Theologian in Residence at Calvary Baptist Church, bridging academia and church through innovative forums.

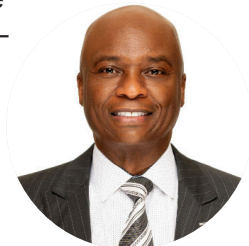


Plenary Speakers

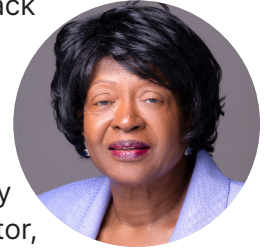
Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq., CEO of FPWA and a fourth-generation leader in faith and social justice, champions equity through policy and advocacy. An author and radio host, she led NYC's Racial Justice Commission, pioneering structural reforms and ending solitary confinement in city jails. Co-chair of the National True Cost of Living Coalition, she advances economic security standards nationwide. Jennifer serves as vice chair of the National Action Network, a member of advisory boards at Fordham University and Harvard Law School, and a commissioner on New York State's Community Commission on Reparations. With a JD from Fordham, an MS from NYU, and a B.S. from Rutgers, she combines legal expertise with a commitment to societal change, impacting national policy and social justice reforms.



Rev. Leonard Burton is the president and CEO of the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), with over three decades of experience in anti-racist, intersectional social justice work. He previously served as a Senior Fellow at CSSP, focusing on systems change and public policy. Burton co-developed the upEND Movement, aiming to abolish family policing and create better care for children and families. He serves on the board of WestED, advises the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and is a faculty member of the Casey Family Programs' Black Male Wellness Collective. An ordained clergyman, he pastors social care and counseling at St. Mark Church in Huntsville, Alabama. Burton holds degrees from Austin Peay State University and Tennessee State University, is a U.S. Army combat veteran, and resides in Huntsville with his family.



Joyce Johnson is a lifelong activist whose works trace back to her high school days in Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil Rights era. As one of the earliest Black students at Duke University, she continued her advocacy, supporting campus workers and pushing for relevant education. A former university professor and research director, Joyce now directs the Jubilee Institute, fostering community-based leadership and training. She serves on various boards, including the North Carolina NAACP State Executive Board and the Guilford Education Alliance. Joyce, alongside her husband, Rev. Nelson N. Johnson, played a pivotal role in establishing the Truth and Community Reconciliation Project in Greensboro, North Carolina. Recognized with numerous awards for their transformative work, their dedication spans almost four decades, bringing about significant social and economic change. Joyce and Rev. Johnson are proud parents and grandparents.



Rev. Nelson Johnson is a lifelong advocate for social and economic justice and emerged as a leader during the civil rights era at A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina. As the founding pastor of Faith Community Church and executive director of The Beloved Community Center, he prioritizes comprehensive community building, emphasizing diversity, justice, and participatory democracy. Rev. Johnson's leadership has led to significant achievements, including a pivotal contract settlement for workers at the Greensboro K-Mart Distribution Center in 1997. His expertise in community organizing and socio-political analysis has earned him speaking engagements at universities nationwide and contributions



to esteemed publications. A native of Halifax County, Rev. Johnson holds degrees from North Carolina A&T State University and Virginia Union University. He and his wife Joyce and their family embody their commitment to justice and community empowerment.

Dr. Robby P. Jones is the president and founder of Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) and author of the bestselling book, *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. He writes for *The Atlantic*, *TIME*, and other outlets and appears on CNN, MSNBC, NPR, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. His book, *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*, won a 2021 American Book Award, and *The End of White Christian America* received the 2019 Grawemeyer Award in Religion. Jones writes weekly on Substack about truth-telling and healing from white supremacy. He holds a Ph.D. in religion from Emory University and an M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Rev. Michael McBride is the executive director of LIVE FREE USA, a national network dedicated to ending the criminalization of people of color, reducing gun violence, and transforming the criminal justice system. Recognized by the Center for American Progress as a Top Clergy Leader in 2013, he served on President Obama's Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Council in 2016. A leader in public health gun violence prevention, his work has led to significant reductions in gun-related homicides in several cities. He co-founded Black Church PAC and the Black Brown Peace Consortium and serves as lead pastor of The Way Church in Berkeley, California. He frequently contributes to major media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, MSNBC, CNN, and *The Huffington Post*.



Yasmine-Imani McMorris, Esq., is an attorney, mayor advocate, and mom. Elected as a Council Member in Culver City in November 2020, she served as Vice Mayor and became the first Black woman Mayor in December 2023. Mayor McMorris sits on various ad hoc City Council committees, including Education, Equity, and Sustainability. She established the Culver City Community Care Workshops in 2022 to address community issues. She works to advance education equity as Director of Education Equity for Children's Defense Fund-California. Mayor McMorris has worked for the City University of NY, Essex County Community College, and USC Gould School of Law. She serves on the boards of Civic Well and Clean Power Alliance and is a commissioner for the LA Homelessness Services Authority. She holds a J.D. from Rutgers and a B.A. from Spelman College.



Rev. Wesley Morris is the senior pastor of Faith Community Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, focusing on spirituality and transformative justice. He has over a decade of experience with the Beloved Community Center of Greensboro. He is currently the associate director of Southern Vision Alliance, supporting grassroots organizing projects in the U.S. South. A North Carolina A&T State University and Union Theological Seminary graduate, Morris has participated in cultural and spiritual exchange programs in Cuba, Barbados, Palestine, and Brazil. He served as a chaplain at Harlem Hospital, addressing systemic racism and poverty, and co-developed a program at UTS. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, reading, writing, listening to vinyl records, playing basketball, and watching live sports.



Kenya Murray Morris, MPH, CPH, is an epidemiologist with over 10 years of experience in domestic and international epidemiologic studies. Her work focuses on maternal health

equity and infectious disease epidemiology, aiming to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality among minority and underserved populations. She has served at the CDC and was awarded the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship at NYC DOHMH, where she led outbreak investigations and public health responses to Ebola and Zika. She was the first Director of DOHMH's Antibiotic Resistance Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit and played a key role during the COVID-19 pandemic. Internationally, she has worked on trials and mHealth projects in Zambia and Uganda. Kenya holds a BS in Biology and an MPH in Epidemiology and is pursuing a PhD at the University of Georgia.

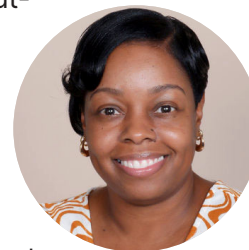


José A. Perez, MPS (he/him), is the project manager at Children's Defense Fund-NY. With personal experience in child welfare and youth justice systems, he advocates for housing, economic mobility, and self-determination for system-involved youth. At CDF-NY, he leads an intergenerational group of youth organizers,



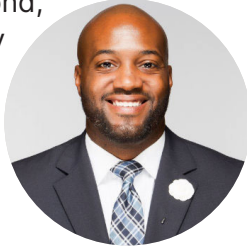
managing direct cash payments to 100 young adults who aged out of foster care in NYC. José is a recognized subject matter expert, speaking at venues like the New York State Capitol, Howard University, and the White House. He also serves on the NYC District Attorney's Reentry Council Board and is active as a spoken word artist and actor.

Alisha Porter is a servant leader who has served as a child advocate for over 30 years, beginning her career within out-of-school time programming before transitioning into the child welfare and school choice sectors. In July of 2006, Porter found a home for her calling to address the whole child. She joined Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota (CDF-MN), where she currently serves as state director. Appointed in August 2022, she is working to ensure CDF-MN is positioned at the intersection of child well-being and racial justice so young people grow up with dignity, hope, and joy.

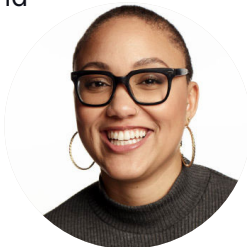


Workshop Leaders

Rev. Dr. Timothy Levi Adkins-Jones is the Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey. Raised in Richmond, Virginia, he was led to faith by his grandfather, Rev. Leroy Jones. Before Bethany, he served congregations in Massachusetts and Connecticut, focusing on community activism and Christian service. He is a leader in New Jersey Together and a trustee for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and Salvation and Social Justice. Dr. Adkins-Jones holds a PhD in Practical Theology with a Homiletics concentration from Boston University, an MDiv from BUSTH, and a B.A. in Psychology from Amherst College. He is an assistant professor of Homiletics at Union Theological Seminary. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and is married to Rev. Dr. Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones, with whom he has four children.

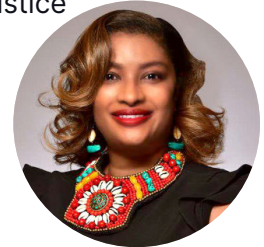


Minister Ryan Lindsay Arrendell, an Emmy-award-winning journalist, preacher, and writer, uses storytelling for healing and change, leading with love in various roles from the pulpit to journalism. A contributor to *The Christian Citizen*, she explores intersections between faith, justice, and mercy. Currently, she researches how Christian women navigate abortion, aiming to create pastoral and spiritual care guides. Her upcoming book, *Mine The Unseen*, explores abortion healing, particularly from the perspective of a Black Christian woman in America. A Yale Divinity School graduate, she serves at Double Love Experience Church in Brooklyn, New York, set for ordination in November 2024. Originally from Washington, D.C., she preached her first sermon as a teenager at Zion Baptist Church and finds



inspiration in Romans 12:12: “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.”

Rev. Danielle Ayers, Pastor of Justice at Friendship-West in Dallas, TX, under Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III, is a justice seeker, author, and educator. She leads the church’s public policy agenda, focusing on economic, food, gender, and environmental justice, racial reconciliation, and more. Ayers trains congregations nationwide to decolonize missions and develop justice ministries. Co-convenor of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc., she collaborates on racial and religious justice. Ayers serves on boards including President Jimmy Carter’s New Baptist Covenant, and is pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry at SMU Perkins School of Theology. With a BBA from The University of Memphis and an MDiv from Brite Divinity School, she co-authored *To Serve This Present Age: Social Justice Ministries in the Black Church* and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.



Rev. JaQuan Beachem (he/they) is an RYT 200-hour certified yoga instructor, reiki healer, and sound healing trained facilitator. Rev. JaQuan Beachem is the associate dean and director of Community Development and Spiritual Formation at Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. Now, as a PhD candidate, their focus is on ethical and decolonial pedagogies, policies, practices of care, thriving, and wholeness in [higher] education. As the founder of wellness non-profit KEI, Inc., JaQuan consults and curates sustainable spaces for authenticity, embodiment, play, and (re) imagination at the individual, organizational, and corporate levels. They are a love-centered, joy-



seeking, and justice-oriented interdisciplinary artist and scholar. In his leisure, JaQuan enjoys jamming out to music, trying out a new recipe, and noticing things bloom.

Rev. Dr. Reginald “Reggie” Blount is the Murray H. Leiffer associate professor of Formation, Leadership and Culture and the director of the Center for the Church and the Black Experience at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. His research interests include African American identity formation, adolescent and young adult identity formation, Christian education theory, Christian education and the Black church, and African/African American spirituality. He is currently researching the role of the Black church in the identity formation of African American youth.



Rev. Thomas Brackeen is a dedicated servant leader with over 28 years of experience in youth and young adult development in Washington, D.C. Currently serving as minister to youth and families at Metropolitan AME Church, he fosters spiritual growth and creative expression through initiatives like Keep It Real Fridays. Thomas integrates tradition and innovation to engage youth in church life and advocate for justice. Known as the “Youth Pastors’ Pastor,” he mentors and coaches through national youth ministry organizations and TBJ Enterprises, LLC. Thomas also serves as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lead at The Nature Conservancy, where he develops strategies for inclusive hiring, donor engagement, and workplace culture improvement. Passionate about empowering young people and leaders, Rev. Brackeen strives to make a positive impact locally and globally.

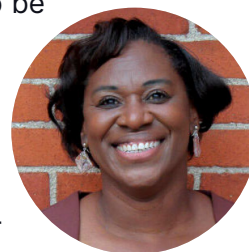


Briahnnna Brown is a strategic communicator who understands how seemingly disconnected issues work together to hinder true progress and justice. Her experience as a journalist has

enabled her to analyze these issues while working to amplify voices that mainstream media often ignore. As a director with Spitfire in Washington, D.C., Briahnnna helps create winning communication and campaign strategies that advance racial and social justice. Briahnnna is a strategic communicator who understands how seemingly disconnected issues work together to hinder true progress and justice. Her experience as a journalist has enabled her to analyze these issues while working to amplify voices that mainstream media often ignore. As a director with Spitfire in Washington, D.C., Briahnnna helps create winning communication and campaign strategies that advance racial and social justice.



Rev. Myra Brown is the pastor of Rochester, New York’s Spiritus Christi Church – a congregation that strives to be the continuing presence of Jesus in the 21st century, working to be a community that is both inclusive and mission-driven. Reverend Myra was an original member of the Spiritus Christi community when it was founded in 1998. She was ordained a priest in 2017 and was selected as pastor of the community in 2018. Rev. Myra founded many ministries at Spiritus Christi, including the Racial Justice Ministry at Spiritus Christi (SPARC), which is a coalition committed to the intentional work of eliminating racism in all its forms. Rev. Myra was called to ministry but God’s voice which said, “I have called you to preach and teach my word.” From that day forward, she has committed to walking through every door God opens for her to meet up with God on the other side.



Gerry Cobb is the director of the Pritzker Children’s Initiative, part of the JB and MK Pritzker Family Foundation, focusing on state policies for children from



prenatal to age three. The initiative emphasizes healthy beginnings, high-quality early care, and family support. Before this role, she was the state services director for the BUILD Initiative, aiding states in developing early childhood systems. She also spent 13 years with North Carolina's Smart Start Initiative, establishing the National Technical Assistance Center. Previously, she was executive director of the American Council of Young Political Leaders and a program officer for The Asia Foundation. A North Carolina native, Gerry graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2010, she volunteered globally, working with children and wildlife across multiple continents.

Common Hymnal (Nikki Holguin, Nabil Ince, Royce Lovett, Adina O'Neal, Jalen Seawright), an online platform founded five years ago, serves creatives on the margins of the Christian faith, offering a home for artists whose work doesn't fit the mainstream. It curates music that centers on life, justice, and underground spirituality, releasing a fresh collection of songs annually. The platform's dynamic performers regularly travel for shows, and its intentional lyrics have gained traction in the justice movement. Common Hymnal aspires to become an integral part of the cultural zeitgeist, fostering a diverse and inclusive community of artists and thinkers.



Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat is a highly accomplished professional and advocate for children's rights, with a distinguished career in public service, education reform, and community leadership. As a United States Navy veteran, she brings a wealth of experience, leadership, and dedication to her role as the president of Children's Advocates for Change. She previously served in leadership with Voices for Illinois Children, Cook County Board President, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (Illinois), Illinois



Department of Central Management Services, and High Jump. In 2019, she was recognized as one of Chicago Defender's Women of Excellence, affirming her commitment to making a positive impact in her community. Dr. Green Cruzat holds an Ed.D. from Vanderbilt University, an MBA from the University of Notre Dame, an MA in Education Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a BA in Political Science from Brooklyn College.

Annabelle Gardner believes young people can change the world. At Spitfire Strategies, she's proud to partner with clients like Children's Defense Fund, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation, and Dove to promote the health and well-being of young people so they can be the leaders of today. Prior to joining Spitfire, Annabelle co-founded Young Minds Advocacy, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that advocates for increased access to quality mental health care for youth and their families. Annabelle also provided strategic communication support to the California Youth Connection, a foster youth-led organization transforming the foster care system through legislative and policy change.



Rev. Moya Harris is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, serving at Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, D.C. She is also the director of racial justice at Sojourners, focusing on voter protection and the intersection of faith and politics. A retired nurse with 27 years of experience, Rev. Harris holds a B.S.N. from Towson University, an M.Div. from Payne Theological Seminary, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric at Christian Theological Seminary. Her research explores African rhetoric and Black prophetic preaching influenced by hip-hop. Married to John I. Harris, III, and mother to Sierra Battle, she embodies



womanist theology and advocates for justice, drawing inspiration from scholars like Dr. Katie G. Cannon and Molefi Asante. She enjoys hip-hop, scholarship, and coffee.

Rev. Vahisha Hasan is a social impact strategist and wellness practitioner at the intersections of faith, social justice, and mental health. A dynamic public speaker, transformative facilitator, and social justice trainer, she envisions faith communities as pivotal in healing and liberation. Vahisha chairs Transform Network and serves as an associate minister at Christ Missionary Baptist Church under Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart. She holds dual master's degrees in divinity and mental health counseling from Gardner-Webb University and a bachelor's in communications from UNC Chapel Hill. Beginning her Ph.D. in Communications at the University of Memphis in Fall 2024, Vahisha has authored various academic and devotional works, including *Building Up A New World: Congregational Organizing for Transformative Impact*. Grateful for her diverse community, Vahisha thrives in collective efforts for justice.



Brigit Hurley is chief program officer at The Children's Agenda in Rochester, New York. Hurley oversees its policy, advocacy, and mobilizing work to achieve systemic change for children in New York State. Brigit leads the statewide Kids Can't Wait campaign to advance equitable access to services for young children with developmental delays and disabilities. She also coordinates The Children's Agenda's Interfaith Collaborative and its annual Children's Sabbath. Hurley previously worked at Catholic Charities, where she spent 10 years in the Office of Social Policy, working on issue advocacy and faith-based education and outreach. Before that, she served as coordinator of the Rochester Toy Library and Peacemaker for the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley. Hurley earned a Master of Public Affairs



degree from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

Eileen Hurley is a Registered Nurse and licensed clinical social worker with postgraduate certifications in Family Therapy and Narrative Therapy. She has over 40 years of experience in community health care in Rochester, New York, serving socially and economically disadvantaged families. For the past 30+ years, Eileen has developed trauma-informed psychosocial services and healthcare projects for the uninsured, incarcerated youth, adults with criminal histories, earthquake survivors in Haiti, and former child soldiers and refugees in Africa. Currently, her work focuses on young gun violence survivors living with spinal cord injuries.



Rev. Dr. Muriel L. Johnson is the CEO of Bishops INK LLC, a consultation firm for clergy and communities. Known for her compassionate leadership, she combines prophetic and pastoral duties with integrity. Originally from Biloxi, Mississippi, and raised in Brooklyn's Brownsville, her experiences shape her worldview. Rev. Johnson earned her B.S. in Urban Education from Harris-Stowe State University and an M.Div. from Eden Theological Seminary. An ordained American Baptist minister, she was the first woman licensed by Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Madison, Wisconsin, and has served various congregations. As the executive regional associate minister for the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, she supported 90 diverse congregations. A proud elder of St. Louis's "Dream Woke" village, she resides in Suffolk, Virginia, surrounded by her family.



Jaiyéolá (Jaiyé) Kasai leads the teacher training programs for CDF Freedom Schools® and supports the Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute for partners. A fifth-generation

Washingtonian and graduate of Howard University, she began her career in education in her beloved hometown of Washington, D.C. and has served the D.C. area as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, and nonprofit leader for more than a decade. Kasai has earned a master's degree (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction, an executive certificate in Social Innovation Design, and has completed postgraduate training in Anthropology and Women's and Gender Studies. She provides administrative and logistics support for the training team, the teacher training faculty, and the participants.



Matthew Kincaid is the founder and CEO of Overcoming Racism, LLC, which aims to create equitable institutions through comprehensive race and equity training. A former educator and published author of "Freedom Teaching," he has over 15 years of experience leading anti-racism workshops. Kincaid empowers individuals and organizations to address systemic racism with courage and skill. A Tufts University graduate, he was recognized as a top 100 visionary leader by Real Leaders magazine and named Young Entrepreneur of the Year in Louisiana. He has trained teams from the NBA, elite universities, and statewide school systems, believing that his teaching reveals more about him than his accolades.



Rev. Dr. Virginia A. Lee is associate professor of Christian Education, director of Deacon Studies, and director of the Master of Arts in Faith, Culture, and Educational Leadership at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She is the co-editor, with Dr. Reginald Blount, of *Let Your Light Shine: Mobilizing for Justice with Children and Youth*, the first volume written by the Dale P. Andrews Freedom Seminary faculty.



Dr. Lee is also a co-editor of *Raising Faithful Kids: This is the Stuff of Faith*, published in spring 2024. She is an ordained minister in the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Dr. Lee received a B.A. from the College of William and Mary, a Master of Religious Education from Duke Divinity School, and an EdD from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education.

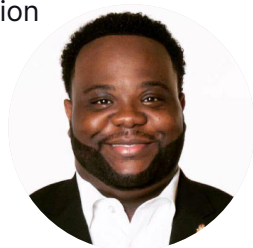
ash love (she/they/ash/ashlove/love) is a tender soul dedicated to wholeness and liberation. As the founder of ashlove, LLC, ash offers nonprofit wellness coaching and strategic guidance, helping them achieve their authentic impact. From Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Wake Forest Divinity, ash advanced in faith-rooted organizing and womanist sensibilities. Inspired by Toni Morrison and Audre Lorde, ash infuses their work with profound wisdom. At Metropolitan State University of Denver's Department of Social Work, ash nurtures future social workers. Embracing bell hooks' mantra, "love is as love does," ash finds joy in mentoring, researching, creating art, and sharing loving spaces with friends and family. Learn more at ashlove.me.



Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews (he/him) has over 35 years of experience as a nonprofit leader, organizer, multifaith leader, and podcaster. Formerly the deputy director and chief faith officer for Faith in Action, he hosted the *Prophetic Resistance Podcast*, discussing community building and resistance to injustice. Rev. Mathews is the immediate past president of the Alliance of Baptists and co-editor of *Trouble the Waters: A Christian Resource for the Work of Racial Justice*. He is a senior fellow at Auburn Theological Seminary and the American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley, and co-founder of Sympara, a multifaith community repurposing spiritual assets for the common good.



Rev. Terence L. Mayo (he/him) is a Black queer feminist practical theologian, educator, and social impact strategist focused on contextual theological education and racial equity. As director of community ministry for the Center for Youth Ministry Training (CYMT), he equips individuals and faith communities to support youth outside traditional settings.



A sought-after speaker, he addresses topics like Black LGBTQIA+ youth, DEI, and trauma-informed strategies. Rev. Mayo serves on the national boards for Progressive Youth Ministry and the Howard University School of Divinity Alumni Association. He was recently named a Steinhardt fellow at NYU, pursuing a Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning, focusing on Urban Education.

Rev. Dr. Ayo M. Morton is a preacher, teacher, poet, and novelist shaped by Richmond Public Schools, Hampton University, and Virginia Union University. She completed her PhD in Womanist Vernacular Discourse at the University of Memphis. Licensed at Antioch Baptist Church and ordained at Saint Paul's Baptist Church, she is an assistant professor of Rhetoric and Composition at Virginia State University. A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, she has authored three novels, a devotional, and a spoken word album. Dr. Morton believes, "I strategically place words in the correct order to reorder their lives," using her gifts to honor God.



Rev. Dr. Shakeema North-Albert, known as "Shak," is a dedicated leader from Newark, New Jersey, with over 20 years in youth development and urban ministry. As a teacher, preacher, and writer, she shares her expertise nationally and internationally, focusing on strengths-based, trauma-informed approaches to



empower marginalized youth. Joining Covenant House New York in 2015, Shak advanced life skills programming and policies for youth safety and well-being, fostering a culture of respect and validation. She became CEO in 2023. Shak also served as pastor to Youth and Families at The Concord Baptist Church of Christ for a decade. She holds a B.S. in computer science, an M.Div. from New York Theological Seminary, and a D.Min. from Duke Divinity School.

Dr. Mary J. Novak is the sixth executive director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice and the first lay leader in its 52-year history. As an associate member of the Congregation of St. Joseph, Mary integrates her background as an organizer, trauma-informed lawyer, educator, chaplain, and restorative justice practitioner to advance NETWORK's mission.



She initiated a shared leadership model, strengthening partnerships and the community's pursuit of justice. A Santa Clara University Law School graduate and Washington Theological Union, Mary previously served as associate director of Mission Integration and law professor at Georgetown University Law Center. She chairs the Advisory Board of the Initiative on Restorative Justice and Healing at the University of St. Thomas Law School.

Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagán-Banks (she/her/ella) is a queer womanist minister and healer dedicated to liberation and community building.

Based in Chicago with her spouse, three children, and 12 grandchildren, she serves as executive director of A Just Harvest, addressing hunger and poverty. She pastors at San Lucas United Church of Christ and teaches at McCormick and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminaries. A certified yoga teacher, she contributes to several publications, including *Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*.



Rev. Dr. Christophe D. Ringer is an associate professor of Theological Ethics and Society at Chicago Theological Seminary. He authored *Necropolitics and the Religious Crisis of U.S. Mass Incarceration* and co-edited *Moved by the Spirit: Religion and the Movement for Black Lives*. He holds a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, focusing on Black religion, cultural studies, and public political theology. Dr. Ringer has taught at various institutions and is a member of the American Academy of Religion, serving on the Religion and Human Rights committees. He previously served as pastor of Howard Congregational (UCC) and has a background in community development. Dr. Ringer is active in social justice, including efforts to abolish wealth-based pre-trial incarceration in Illinois. He offers spiritual coaching through Soul Craft Coaching and is married to Minister Kimberly Peeler-Ringer.



Rev. Harold Dean Trulear, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Applied Theology at Howard University School of Divinity. He holds degrees from Morehouse College (BA) and Drew University (PhD). He directs Healing Communities USA, a national project that mobilizes congregations to support individuals returning from incarceration. Rev. Trulear co-edited *Ministry with Prisoners and Families: The Way Forward* and authored *Balancing Justice with Mercy: An Interfaith Guide to Creating Healing Communities* and *Welcome Home: Reflective Essays for Returning Citizens*. Rev. Dr. Trulear is married to Brenda J. Trulear, pastor of Empowered Ministries, Inc., and director of Pemi School of Ministry.



Micauri Vargas is an associate counsel at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice's Democracy & Justice Program. Previously, she served as a deputy attorney general in the 2020 New Jersey AG Honors Program, focusing on

civil rights, labor, and workplace violations. She graduated from Rutgers Law School Newark in 2020, where she served as business editor of the *Race and the Law Review* and co-chair of the American Constitution Society and National Lawyers Guild. Micauri earned her B.A. in Economics from New York University in 2014.



Rev. Dr. Reginald W. Williams, Jr., born and raised in Chicago, is a pastor committed to liberation theology. He is a graduate of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Florida A & M University (cum laude), the University of Wisconsin Law School, and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, where he earned his M.Div. (2002) and D.Min. (2017). As associate pastor for Justice Ministries at Trinity United Church of Christ under Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., he has been pastor of First Baptist Church of University Park, Illinois, since 2008. Dr. Williams, a respected adjunct professor at McCormick and Chicago Theological Seminaries, is a sought-after speaker and prophetic leader, honored for his service and dedication to social justice.



Mantryll Williams is a youth policy consultant and movement-building fellow with Children's Defense Fund, and an apprentice with the Center for Third World Organizing. An organizer from Fayetteville, North Carolina, he is dedicated to community empowerment and transformative justice. As a graduating social work student at NC A&T State University, Mantryll focuses on dismantling oppressive structures through mutual aid, truth, and reconciliation. His work spans issues like prison abolition, youth mental health, housing insecurity, and educational access. Mantryll's organizing home and faith community are in Greensboro, NC, at Faith Community

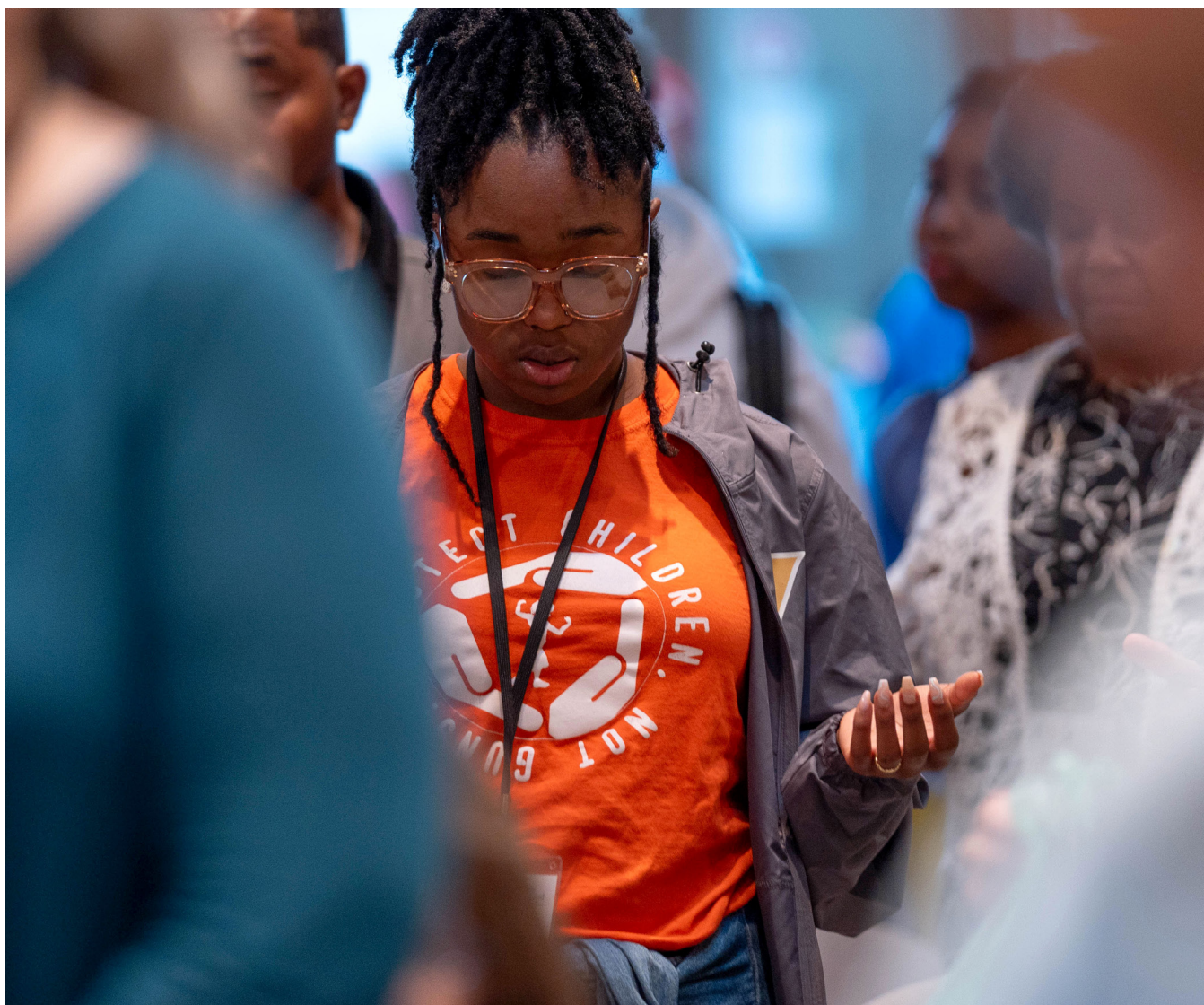


Church, led by Reverend Wesley Morris. Guided by the verse, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,” he strives to preach, heal, and deliver.

Rev. Dr. Almeda M. Wright (PhD Emory University, MDiv Harvard Divinity School, MAT Simmons College, BS Massachusetts Institute of Technology) is a tenured associate professor of Religious Education at Yale Divinity School, specializing in African American religion, Womanist practical theology, and adolescent spiritual development. She founded



Communitas, a young adult ministry hub at Yale, and co-leads the Conectere Project with Eastern Mennonite University, focusing on empowering parents and caregivers. Author of *Teaching to Live: Black Religion, Activist-Educators and Radical Social Change* (Oxford, 2024) and *The Spiritual Lives of Young African Americans* (Oxford, 2017), Dr. Wright is ordained with the American Baptist Churches and has over 25 years of experience in youth education and ministry.



Schedule

MONDAY, JULY 15

MORNING

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Breakfast for guests lodging on the Farm, CDF staff, and volunteers	Main Tent
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Dale F. Andrews Seminarian pre-session	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
9:15 a.m.	Load buses for Welcome Home cohort, Young Adult partners to First Baptist Church, and Practicing Resurrection cohort to McAdoo Center	
10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	Practicing Resurrection cohort session	Green McAdoo Cultural Center
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Welcome Home cohort Young Adult partners session	First Baptist Church
11:15 a.m.	Pick up Practicing Resurrection cohort from McAdoo Center to First Baptist Church	
10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Welcome Home Congregational cohort session	First Baptist Church
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Pritzker cohort group	Haley Lodge
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	BLSN ambassador retreat	Seminary room
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Practicing Resurrection cohort session	First Baptist Church

MID-DAY

12:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m.	Registration	Main Tent
12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Transportation to Lunch	First Baptist Church
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.	Lunch	Main Tent
2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Practicing Resurrection cohort session	Langston Hughes Library
2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Welcome Home cohort session	Haley Lodge
2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Orientation for <i>CDF Freedom Schools</i> scholars and parents/caregivers	Main Tent
4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Opening Plenary "Welcome Home" Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson President and CEO, CDF Prathia-Hall stone dedication	Riggio-Lynch Chapel Labyrinth

EVENING

5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m.	Dinner	Main Tent
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Music for the Movement Resurrection Choir Rehearsal	Riggio-Lynch Chapel

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Buses loop between the Farm and hotels	Main Tent
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Great Preacher Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
8:30 p.m.	Buses to Clinton and Powell hotels	Pick up from Chapel
8:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.	Yoga Under the Stars Rev. JaQuan Beachmen	Orchard Tent
9:15 p.m.	Bus to Clinton and Powell hotels	Pick up from Chapel

TUESDAY, JULY 16

MORNING

6:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast on your own	
6:30 a.m.	Bus picks up from Powell hotels for "Meditations for the Journey"	Main Tent/Chapel
6:55 a.m.	Bus from Powell picks up from Clinton hotels for "Meditations for the Journey"	Main Tent/Chapel
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast for guests lodging on the Farm, CDF staff, and volunteers	Main Tent
7:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	"Meditations for the Journey" Dr. Rhonda V. Magee Healer-in-Residence	Haley Lodge Boardroom
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Registration	Main Tent
8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	<i>CDF Freedom Schools</i> check-in Bus departs at 8:45 a.m.	Haley Lodge
8:00 a.m.	Bus picks up from Powell hotels	Haley Lodge
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	<i>CDF Freedom Schools</i>	Junior Achievement Center
8:25 a.m.	Bus picks up from Clinton hotels	Haley Lodge
8:40 a.m.-9:45 a.m.	Morning Devotions Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. Co-Pastor-in-Residence	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	Theological Study Session "A Kairos Test of Faith and Democracy" Rev. Jim Wallis Theologian-in-Residence	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Break	Riggio-Lynch Chapel

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	"Children's Policy and Power Plenary: A Test of Democracy and Faith" Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorris Moderator Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker Scholar-In-Residence Dr. Robby Jones Rev. Michael McBride	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
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MID-DAY

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.	Registration	Main Tent
12:15 p.m.-12:30 p.m.	Social Action <i>CDF Freedom Schools</i> National Day of Social Action	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	Lunch	Main Tent
12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Yoga Rev. JaQuan Beachmen	Haley Lodge Porch
1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	Book signing	Main Tent
1:45 p.m.	Buses depart from the Main Tent for First Baptist Church workshops	
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	BLSN ambassador retreat	Seminary room
2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.	Workshop Session I	Various locations (see workshop schedule)
3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	Break & Transition	
3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	Buses loop between First Baptist Church and Haley Farm	Main Tent & Chapel
3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Workshop Session II	Various locations (see workshop schedule)

EVENING

5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Break & Transition	
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Registration	Main Tent
5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Buses loop between Haley Farm & hotels	
5:25 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Music for the Movement Resurrection Choir Rehearsal	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Buses loop between First Baptist Church for the Farm & hotels	
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	"To Make Rest of Motion: Safe Space for Reflections on the Day" Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson Co-Chaplain-in-Residence Minister Candace Simpson Co-Chaplain-in-Residence	Haley Lodge

5:30 p.m.	Caregivers pick up <i>CDF Freedom Schools</i> scholars	Haley Lodge
5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	Dinner	Main Tent
6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Yoga Rev. JaQuan Beachmen	Haley Lodge Porch
6:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	Book signing	Main Tent
7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.	Great Preacher Series Rev. Mahogany Thomas	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
9:00 p.m.	Buses to hotels	Pick up from Chapel
9:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m.	Open Mic and Conversation Common Hymnal	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
10:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.	Buses loop between Chapel and hotel	

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

MORNING

6:30 a.m.	Bus picks up from Powell hotels for "Meditations for the Journey"	
6:55 a.m.	Bus from Powell picks up from Clinton hotels for "Meditations for the Journey"	
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast for guests lodging on Haley Farm, CDF staff, and volunteers	
7:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	"Meditations for the Journey" Dr. Rhonda V. Magee Healer-in-Residence	Haley Lodge Board Room
8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Registration	Main Tent
8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	<i>CDF Freedom Schools</i> check-in Bus departs at 8:45 a.m.	Haley Lodge
8:00 a.m.	Bus picks up from Powell hotels	
8:25 a.m.	Bus picks up from Clinton hotels	
8:40 a.m.-9:45 a.m.	Morning Devotions Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Co-Pastor-in-Residence	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	Theological Study Session "Moral Leadership for our Movement" Rev. Dr. AnneMarie Mingo Theologian-in-Residence	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Break	

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	"Children's Policy and Power Plenary: Economic Mobility" Alisha Porter Moderator Rev. Leonard Burton Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq. José Perez	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
12:15 p.m.-12:30 p.m.	Social Action	Riggio-Lynch Chapel

MID-DAY

12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	Lunch	Main Tent
12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Yoga Rev. JaQuan Beachmen	Haley Lodge Porch
1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	Book signing	Main Tent
1:45 p.m.	Buses depart Main Tent for First Baptist Church workshops	
2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.	Workshop Session III	Various locations/See Workshop Schedule
3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	Break & Transition	
3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	Buses Loop between Haley Farm & First Baptist Church	
3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Workshop Session IV	Various locations/See Workshop Schedule

EVENING

5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Break & Transition	
5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Buses loop between First Baptist Church for the Farm & hotels	
5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Buses loop between Haley Farm & hotels	
5:30 p.m.	Caregivers pick up <i>CDF Freedom Schools</i> scholars	Haley Lodge
5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	Dinner	Main Tent
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Music for the Movement Resurrection Choir Rehearsal	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	"To Make Rest of Motion: Safe Space for Reflections on the Day" Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson Co-Chaplain-in-Residence Minister Candace Simpson Co-Chaplain-in-Residence	Gazebo
6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Yoga After Dinner Rev. JaQuan Beachmen	Haley Lodge Porch
7:30 p.m.-8:45 p.m.	Great Preacher Series Rev. Dr. Rashad Raymond Moore	Riggio-Lynch Chapel

9:00 p.m.	Buses to hotels	
9:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m.	Open Mic and Conversation Common Hymnal	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
10:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.	Buses loop between Chapel and hotels	

THURSDAY, JULY 18

MORNING

6:30 a.m.	Bus picks up from Powell hotels for "Meditations for the Journey"	
6:55 a.m.	Bus from Powell picks up from Clinton hotels for "Meditations for the Journey"	
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast for guests lodging on Haley Farm, CDF staff, and volunteers	
7:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	"Meditations for the Journey" (optional) Dr. Rhonda V. Magee Healer-in-Residence	Haley Lodge Board Room
8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	<i>CDF Freedom Schools</i> check-in	Haley Lodge
8:00 a.m.	Bus picks up from Powell hotels	
8:25 a.m.	Bus picks up from Clinton hotels	
8:40 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Moment of Thoughtfulness/Reflection Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson, Co-Chaplain-in-Residence Minister Candace Simpson, Co-Chaplain-in-Residence	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.	"Children's Policy and Power Plenary: Intergenerational Conversation" Rev. Nelson Johnson Mrs. Joyce Johnson Rev. Wesley Morris Kenya Murray Morris	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
10:05 a.m.-10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m.-11:10 a.m.	Great Preacher Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
11:10 a.m.-11:50 a.m.	Harambee Celebration <i>CDF Freedom Schools</i> scholars	Riggio-Lynch Chapel
11:50 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Closing Call-to-Action Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson President and CEO, CDF	Riggio-Lynch Chapel

MID-DAY

12:30 p.m.	Box lunches	Main Tent
12:30 p.m.	Bus service to airport begins	

Children's Policy and Power Plenaries

Tuesday, July 16

Plenary I – “A Test of Democracy and Faith”

In light of the upcoming election, panelists will consider the key contributions faith communities have made as it relates to voter mobilization. Panelists will wrestle with the key questions regarding the call of faith communities, how we might examine past and current data, and consider key techniques to equip faith communities for election action.

- Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorris, Moderator
- Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker
- Dr. Robby Jones
- Rev. Michael McBride

Wednesday, July 17

Plenary II – “Economic Mobility”

This plenary panel is not just a discussion, but a call to action. It will address the critical issue of economic mobility as we advance CDF's legacy work of advocating for children experiencing poverty. Bringing together a distinguished group of leaders who have dedicated their advocacy to fostering economic opportunities and addressing systemic barriers, the panel will delve into current data trends, innovative approaches, policy interventions, and initiatives that create sustainable pathways to help children do better than their parents. The insights and strategies shared here will directly impact your work and the lives of the children and young people you serve.

- Alisha Porter, Moderator
- Rev. Leonard Burton
- José Perez
- Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq.

Thursday, July 18

Plenary III – “Intergenerational Conversation”

The Hall-Proctor Institute has the unique gift of bringing four generations together in one location. This panel will bring together the iconic leaders Rev. Nelson Johnson and Mrs. Joyce Johnson with the new generation Rev. Wesley and Kenya Murray Morris who walk alongside them. This conversation will center storytelling and our leaders sharing their wisdom of intergenerational community.

- Rev. Wesley Morris
- Kenya Murray Morris
- Rev. Nelson Johnson
- Mrs. Joyce Johnson

Workshops

Session I

Tuesday, July 16

2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

A Little Child Shall Lead them: Prenatal through 3 and Child Well-being

Riggio-Lynch Chapel

Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat, Gerry Cobb

Children are our future and their health and well-being, starting prenatally, are essential. Research shows that the experiences of a child's first three years of life are the "bricks and mortar" of brain development, building the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. In fact, a child's brain develops faster from birth to age three than at any period later in life—and parents play the lead role in their child's healthy development and well-being.

Constructing Your Own Theology of Child Well-Being

Haley Lodge

Rev. Dr. Christophe Ringer

This workshop supports participants in developing a theological rationale for their work toward child well-being in their local context. Significant attention will be paid to relating the major themes of the Christian tradition, broadly construed, to the threats to the well-being of children in their local context.

Freedom Teaching – A Pathway to Youth Empowerment

FBC Room 23 (Choir Room)

Matthew Kincaid

Join Matthew Kincaid, author of *Freedom Teaching*, for a transformative session where we explore the power of centering the assets of young people to create classrooms where they thrive. Participants will gain valuable insight into the core principles of *Freedom Teaching*, including how we dismantle systemic barriers, value cultural wealth, and create educational environments that center the assets of young people. Whether you are an educator, administrator, or child advocate, this session will equip you with tools to envision and actualize a more equitable and empowering educational experience for all students.

From Sabbath Schools to Freedom Schools: Christian Education for Emancipation

FBC Room 6

Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount, Rev. Dr. Virginia Lee

Rev. Dr. Virginia Lee and Rev. Dr. Reggie Blount will lead an engaging workshop exploring the belief that "the purpose of Christian education is to set people free: free to be children of God and free to be the co-creators with God." We will unpack this statement by first exploring the theological anthropology that undergirds it and demonstrate how it's been engaged historically and presently through the Sabbath schools of the Reconstruction Era, the Freedom Schools conducted during the Summer of 1964, and the Freedom Schools as they are run today through the work of Children's Defense Fund. Finally, we will explore why this approach to Christian Education is important.

Healing our Children Through Trauma-Informed Care

FBC Rooms 19-20

Rev. Dr. Lorena Parrish

We know that early trauma causes toxic stress on the brains of young children. So much so that the American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a policy statement about this issue, encouraging pediatricians to aid children who are experiencing toxic stress. Trauma and hurt aren't going away on this side of heaven, so how can we do better for our children and young people as we continue to experience broken homes, broken communities, and broken relationships in the world and the Church? As a secondary disciple-maker for the children of God (the family is the first), the Church has a responsibility to be trauma-informed. This workshop will provide information on what it means to be a trauma-informed church, and what questions should churches ask themselves as well as what practices they should adopt to be a grace-filled space in which deep listening is practiced, humility is expressed, understanding across generations is pursued, and unconditional love along with radical care are offered up to our young people in large doses.

Healthy Communities and Adolescent Justice

FBC Room 21 (Gym)

Rev. Dr. Harold Dean Trulear

Healthy communities and families provide the context and relationships for healthy children and youth. How can they respond when children and youth enter the criminal legal system? How can communities of faith support individuals and families impacted by crime and incarcerations? This workshop provides lessons from the field of restorative justice on how our communities can (1) provide alternatives to incarceration for children and youth and (2) become advocates for radical reform in the criminal legal system.

Living Waters Guaranteed Basic Income Program for School-Aged Children

FBC Room 8 (Library)

Rev. Myra Brown, Brigit Hurley, Eileen Hurley

As a member of the CDF Practicing Resurrection cohort, Spiritus Christi Church aims to put their faith into action expressed in their theology of child well-being by launching the Living Waters Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) Program for School-Aged Children. This work began in early 2024 with fundraising and planning, and the fully implemented program will be a five-year program with 375 families receiving an unrestricted direct cash transfer of \$500 per month. Research shows that unconditional cash transfers have a positive impact on children and families in multiple ways (academics, mental health, physical health, etc.), interrupting poverty and socioeconomic disparities. Spiritus Christi was heavily involved in a GBI pilot administered by the City of Rochester and the Black Community Focus Fund that ends in December 2024.

Preaching and Teaching for Liberation Part 1

FBC Room 22 (Sanctuary)

Rev. Dr. Obery Hendricks, Dr. Farah Jasmine Griffin

Using select biblical texts, Dr. Hendricks will explore the ways scriptures can be used in the preaching moment to address issues of oppression and liberation including, misogyny, classism, homophobia, economic exploitation, and political repression, while honoring their underlying spirituality.

Dr. Griffin will turn to selections from the African American literary tradition to show the multidimensional task of teaching for liberation. Using examples from writers as diverse as Frederick Douglass, Toni Cade Bambara and Ta-Nehisi Coates, workshop participants will explore ways in which teaching can free students to realize their full potential and help them see themselves as an extension of a liberatory legacy. As Toni Morrison tells us, if “you are moving in the direction of freedom...the function of freedom is to free somebody else.”

Understanding the Deep Roots of White Christian Nationalism

FBC Room 1

Dr. Robby Jones

Robert P. Jones, president and founder of PRRI, will discuss his *New York Times* bestselling book, *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*, which returns to the fateful year when a little-known church doctrine emerged that shaped the way five centuries of European Christians would understand the “discovered” world and the people who populated it. This reframing of America’s origins explains how the founders of the United States could build the philosophical framework for a democratic society on a foundation of mass racial violence—and why this paradox survives today in the form of white Christian nationalism. Through stories of people navigating these contradictions in three communities, Jones illuminates the possibility of a new American future in which we finally fulfill the promise of a pluralistic democracy.

I Still Believe in the Black Church: The Social Impact of the Black Church on Community

FBC 7 (Parlor)

Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker

Explore the vital role of the Black Church in shaping communities and its potential to powerfully impact children and youth. Dr. Bri will highlight the church’s contributions to social justice, education, and community support, offering insights into its enduring legacy and transformative potential. Don’t miss this opportunity to understand and harness the Black Church’s impact.

Teen/Youth Track I — Unleashing the Joy: Artistic Expressions amid a Shifting Society

Langston Hughes Library

Common Hymnal

Using and understanding how various artistic expressions aid in movement building and advocacy, youth will have the opportunity to explore, narrative build, and share their lens on society via art.

Session II

Tuesday, July 16

3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths® Design Workshop

FBC Room 23 (Choir Room)

Rev. Vahisha Hasan, ash love

Come learn more about the possibilities of *National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths* that center the voices of children and advocates for and with them around the issues and policies impacting them. This will be a time of dreaming and designing a *National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths*

for your faith community or organization. You will also learn how Children's Defense Fund can support and amplify your vision and equip your efforts with an interactive manual that offers ways to engage your children and community.

Beyond the Choice: Compassionate Care for Teens and Women Who've Experienced Abortion

FBC Room 8 (Library)

Minister Ryan Lindsay Arrendell

Did you ever think that someone sitting next to you in church may have had an abortion? Perhaps you are that person. Approximately 1 in 4 women will have an abortion in their lifetime and since the elimination of *Roe v. Wade*, more than 17 million women lost abortion access in their home states. Truth is—Christian women and teens are having abortions, but the Church isn't caring for them because of stigmas and silence. This workshop aims to provide critical information on how the Church can become a place of care rather than contestation and the rapidly changing abortion landscape in America.

Building the Movement and Healing our Bodies

FBC Room 21 (Gym)

Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagán-Banks

Through our time together we will connect with our bodies, our breath, and our hearts. We will make space for healing, flow, spirit, release, and stillness. We will dance. We will laugh. We will imagine. We might cry. Movement work is hard on our bodies, and this is an opportunity to give thanks to every inch of our fleshy selves and seek forgiveness from those parts of ourselves we have not cared for, loved, been kind to, or seen as worthy or valuable. We will acknowledge the peace, love, and power already at work within each of our beautiful selves and connect this with the power and beauty of others and creation.

Continuing the Conversation with Theologian-in-Residence

FBC Room 6

Rev. Jim Wallis

Join Rev. Jim Wallis to talk about his lecture, work, and highly acclaimed new book.

How to Start a CDF Freedom Schools® Site

Haley Lodge

Jaiyé Kasai

Come discover how you can host or involve your congregation or community in the *CDF Freedom Schools* movement. Participants will gain an overview of the concept and vision behind this successful summer and after-school enrichment program for children in grades K-12. The *CDF Freedom Schools* program integrates reading, conflict resolution, and social action in an activity-based curriculum that promotes social, cultural, and historical awareness.

Is This Another Movement Moment? Examining the Roles of Strategic Organizing and Direct Action as Resources for the Advancement of the Social Movements of our Time (Part 1)

FBC Room 22 (Sanctuary)

Dr. Mary Novak, Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews

Join Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews and Dr. Mary Novak in Part I of this workshop using a social movement lens to understand our current political moment. Come explore the stages of social movements as well as the strategic role of organizing and direct action within social movements.

Prophetic Preaching Part 1

FBC Room 1

Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, Rev. Dr. Forrest Harris

Prophetic preaching is more than diagnosing problems. While it does require that proclaimers understand the times and can put them in context with history, the preacher must also envision and speak a bold God vision beyond human failings. This workshop will help attendees work on observation in historical context while focusing on what God's good news is for the generations to come.

Teen/Youth Track II – Unleashing the Joy: Narrative Building and Story Telling

Langston Hughes Library

Rev. Dr. Ayo Morton

Youth will learn and analyze the ways in which storytelling and narrative building is a tool for making impact and informing change within society.

Session III

Wednesday, July 17

2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

A Little Child Shall Lead them: Prenatal through 3 and Child Well-being

Riggio-Lynch Chapel

Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat, Gerry Cobb

This workshop supports participants in developing a theological rationale for their work toward child well-being in their local context. Significant attention will be paid to relating the major themes of the Christian tradition, broadly construed, to the threats to the well-being of children in their local context.

Housing Youth with Healing Love: Pastoral, Program, and Policy Approaches to Working with Youth Experiencing Homelessness

FBC Room 23 (Choir Room)

Dr. Shakeemah North-Albert

Join us for a transformative workshop designed to address the critical issue of youth homelessness through the lens of healing and compassion. In this workshop, Pastor Shak will discuss foundational approaches to building healing-centered relationships steeped in unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless support. Participants will gain insight into the complexities and precipitating factors that cause youth homelessness. Learn about the vital role of pastoral care in providing emotional and spiritual support to homeless youth and the staff tasked with their care, explore successful program models, and discuss opportunities for advocacy and change.

Preaching and Teaching for Liberation Part 2

FBC Room 22 (Sanctuary)

Rev. Dr. Obery Hendricks, Dr. Farah Jasmine Griffin

Using select biblical texts, Dr. Hendricks will explore the ways scriptures can be used in the preaching moment to address issues of oppression and liberation including, misogyny, classism, homophobia, economic exploitation, and political repression, while honoring their underlying spirituality.

Dr. Griffin will turn to selections from the African American literary tradition to show the multidimensional task of teaching for liberation. Using examples from writers as diverse as Frederick Douglass, Toni Cade Bambara and Ta-Nehisi Coates, workshop participants will explore ways in which teaching can free students to realize their full potential and help them see themselves as an extension of a liberatory legacy. As Toni Morrison tells us, if “you are moving in the direction of freedom...the function of freedom is to free somebody else.”

Transforming Communities through Sacred Stories

FBC Room 6

Rev. Dr. Patrick Reyes

What if there were a way to hear, learn, and play with sacred stories to transform our communities? From Apartheid South Africa to Indigenous liberation in Chiapas, Mexico, Dr. Walter Wink pioneered a transformative bible study method that did just that. Since his passing, the curriculum and practices have been updated by Rev. Dr. Reyes and have been used everywhere from schools and prisons to board rooms and congregations, and of course, right here on the Alex Haley Farm. Come learn how to leverage the practice and center children and the child-within to imagine new, liberative futures through sacred storytelling.

Remembering Joy: Beyond Resistance to Flourishing

FBC Room 8 (Library)

Rev. Dr. Almeda Wright

In this workshop we will explore some of the findings from the Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing research project hosted by the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. Specifically, we will look at the various ways that joy contributes to the flourishing of children, youth, and young adults. We will explore both historical and contemporary perspectives on joy—honing in on the ways that cultural memory is a significant part of empowering people to experience joy in spite of their current realities and begin to creatively strategize solutions to innumerable injustices so that joy and flourishing are part of the experiences of all people.

The Inner Work of Racial Justice: Healing Ourselves and Transforming Our Communities Through Mindfulness

FBC Room 1

Dr. Rhonda V. Magee

In a society where unconscious bias, microaggressions, institutionalized racism, and systemic injustices are so deeply ingrained, healing is an ongoing process. When conflict and division are everyday realities, our instincts tell us to close ranks, to find the safety of those like us, and to blame others. This workshop profoundly shows that to have the difficult conversations required for working toward racial justice, inner work is essential. Through the practice of embodied mindfulness—paying attention to our thoughts, feelings, and physical sensations in an open, nonjudgmental way—we increase our emotional resilience, recognize our own biases, and become less reactive when triggered.

Transformational Educational Strategies for Trauma-Informed Communities

FBC Room 21 (Gym)

Rev. Terence Mayo

This workshop will ground faith leaders and activists in embodied educational strategies that catalyze healing, belonging, and resilience. Participants will learn how a child who has experienced trauma can be triggered, processes, intakes, and deciphers information. During this workshop,

participants will move from being aware of trauma to using asset-based trauma-informed strategies to help youth heal.

Building Up a New World – Get Your Congregation Organizing

FBC Rooms 19-20

Rev. Vahisha Hasan, ash love

Faith communities are already organized bodies of like-hearted and -minded humans. But how to organize—effectively and justly for the transformation of the world—remains a frequently asked question. Get equipped through the stories, practical wisdom, and diverse perspectives of *Building Up a New World*, with chapters such as “Organizing Congregations for Impact,” “Building a Just Economy,” “Resisting White Nationalism,” “From Potluck to Policy Reform,” “Wellness Sustains Our Organizing,” and many more! Engage the contributors who are faith and justice practitioners such as Brittany Caine-Conley, Margaret Ernst, Cathy Carrillo, Noel Anderson, Nichola Torbett, Logan Rimel, Chris Davies, Tracy Howe, Sandra Summers, Teresa Mateus, Sekinah Hamlin, Sky Roosevelt Morris, Jade Perry, Erica Williams, Ayanna Johnson Watkins, Lucy Waechter Webb, and Marilyn Pagán-Banks. Foreword by Velda Love.

Teen/Youth Track III – Unleashing the Joy: Youth Building Something New

Langston Hughes Library

Rev. Thomas Brackeen

This workshop will delve into youth’s unique perspectives and innovative approaches to faith-based community engagement, empowering them to create meaningful change and foster inclusive dialogues. Through interactive discussions and collaborative activities, participants will discover how to harness their passion and creativity to address contemporary social issues from their unique cultural and spiritual perspectives.



Session IV

Wednesday, July 17

3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Continuing the Conversation with Theologian-in-Residence

FBC Room 6

Rev. Dr. AnneMarie Mingo

Join Rev. Dr. AnneMarie Mingo to talk about her lecture and her work.

Empowering Young People: Lowering the Voting Age & Activating Your Voice

FBC Room 21 (Gym)

Rev. Dr. Timothy Adkins-Jones, Micauri Vargas

Join us for an inspiring workshop focused on lowering the voting age and unleashing the power of your voice to shape the future. Through interactive discussions, storytelling, and skill-building activities, you’ll learn how to engage your peers in civic action and discover how churches can partner with advocacy organizations to amplify your voice, flex your advocacy muscles, and be part of a movement that’s redefining democracy for the next generation.

Is This Another Movement Moment? Examining the Roles of Strategic Organizing and Direct Action as Resources for the Advancement of the Social Movements of our Time (Part 2)

FBC Room 22 (Sanctuary)

Dr. Mary Novak, Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews

Join Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews and Dr. Mary Novak in Part II of this workshop using a social movement lens to understand our current political moment. Come explore the stages of social movements as well as the strategic role of organizing and direct action within social movements.

Prophetic Preaching Part 2

FBC Room 1

Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, Rev. Dr. Forrest Harris

Prophetic preaching is more than diagnosing problems. While it does require that proclaimers understand the times and can put them in context with history, the preacher must also envision and speak a bold God vision beyond human failings. This workshop will help attendees work on observation in historical context while focusing on what God's good news is for the generations to come.

Reflections on the Journey: Learnings from the Practicing Resurrection Cohort

FBC Room 7 (Parlor)

Rev. Dr. Muriel Johnson and cohort members

Sharing with Hall-Proctor participants about their Practicing Resurrection cohort journey thus far, cohort members from 10 congregations will discuss how focusing on child well-being is making a difference in their own contexts.

To Serve this Present Age: Tools, Tactics and Techniques to Create and Sustain Social Justice Movements and Ministries

Haley Lodge

Rev. Danielle Ayers, Rev. Dr. Reggie Williams

In this session, participants will be exposed to critical components of creating and sustaining ministries and movements for justice. Principles shared herein will assist in the work of bringing to bear a just world in order that joy may be a reality released regularly!

Narrative Power

FBC Room 8 (Library)

Briahna Brown and Annabelle Gardner

Narratives, like the American Dream, are collections or systems of related stories, articulated and refined over time to represent a central idea or belief. They influence who we emphasize with, who we think of as heroes vs. villains, what solutions we believe are possible, and can often reinforce stereotypes and biases. During this 90-minute session, narrative and communication experts, Briahna Brown, and Annabelle Gardner of Spitfire Strategies, will explore the work of narrative analysis and strategy as a way to shift power—on your issues, in your community and in our society. We will discuss the definition of narrative—as distinct from messages, media, and stories—dig in on what dominant narratives present barriers or opportunities for supporting children and youth and how narrative change across politics, policy and pop-culture is essential for progress. Participants will also have the opportunity to give feedback on CDF messaging to support a new narrative about child well-being.

Participants should come prepared with smartphones or laptops for interactive purposes.

Voting for the Generations: Reimagining Democracy and Freedom through the Lens of Revelation 21

FBC Room 23 (Choir Room)

Rev. Moya Harris

This workshop aims to empower and galvanize attendees to view voting as an act of resistance and a tool to move their communities toward God's vision of the flourishing of all generations in Revelation 21. We will reshape the narrative on voting through powerful imagery and vision, creatively engaging our theological imaginations. This workshop will also provide access to Sojourner's 2024 election faith engagement work. Let's harness our energy and passion to challenge the surrounding chaos and unleash the joy within.

CDF's YouthNPower: Transforming Care – No Policy About Us Without Us: Insights from a Guaranteed Income Project for Young People Aging Out of Foster Care in New York City

FBC Rooms 19-20

José Perez

Join us for an enlightening workshop delving into the intricate framework of CDF's YouthNPower: Transforming Care Team. Gain a comprehensive understanding of our project's mission and the brilliant young architects of this pilot. Engage in an interactive session that will utilize a MentiMeter to debunk prevailing myths surrounding Young People who Age Out and the concept of Guaranteed Income. Learn about the intricacies of our meticulously designed research methodology and delve into the profound implications unveiled by our Issue Brief surrounding young people aging out the foster care system in NYC. We will share compelling findings from our rapid survey on the transformative impact of financial support, shedding light on the multifaceted intersections of housing insecurities, the criminal legal system and child welfare system, paving the path towards substantive policy reform and movement-building initiatives.

Teen/Youth Track IV – Unleashing the Joy: Engineering a Joyful Future

Langston Hughes Library

Mantryll Williams

Using interactive engagement methods, this session will center the voices of youth and teens as content knowledge experts. By honing in on their own best practices and experiences, they will use these methods to imagine, reimagine and design a more equitable and sustainable future for their generation and generations to come.

Special Opportunities

Meditations for the Journey

Dr. Rhonda V. Magee

Tuesday, July 16–Thursday, July 18

7:15 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

Haley Lodge Boardroom

Those who advocate for the well-being of our nation's young people do so in many ways and in a variety of contexts. The demands placed upon those who are advocates for children and youth can sometimes be stressful. The purpose of the journey group is to provide an opportunity for participants to reflect upon the nature of their work for children, enhance their perspective on the work they do, and give some attention to their own emotional and spiritual needs as advocates.

Check the shuttle bus schedule for information about early buses to transport participants to "Meditations for the Journey."

Music for the Movement: Resurrection Choir Rehearsal

Dr. Khyle Wooten and Professor Omar Dickerson

Monday, July 15–Wednesday, July 17

5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Riggio-Lynch Chapel

All are welcome to participate in the Resurrection Choir under the direction of Rev. Dr. Khyle Wooten and Professor Omar Dickerson. The choir sings at the evening Great Preacher series worship services and Morning Devotions. It is never too late to join, so if you are inspired by the choir on the first night, join for the next!

To Make Rest of Motion: Safe Space for Reflection for the Day

Co-Chaplains-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson, Minister Candace Simpson

Monday, July 15–Wednesday, July 17

5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Gazebo

In his meditation, *To Make Rest of Motion*, Howard Thurman wrote, "It is ever a grace and a benediction to be able to come to a halt, to stop, to pause, to make a rest of motion. Thus, we are privileged to turn aside from the things that occupy and preoccupy our minds in the daily round, to take a long intimate look at ourselves both in retrospect and prospect." Each day at CDF's Hall-Proctor Institute is full—full of emotions and insights, full of ideas and information, full of challenge and opportunity, community and commitment. By afternoon, we have heard, seen, and felt things that touch different and deep places in our hearts and minds. You are invited into this time and safe space "to make rest of motion" and reflect with others on what the day has stirred in you. Join our co-chaplains-in-residence for this time of conversation and contemplation. All ages are welcome.

Movement for the Movement: Yoga and Movement Sessions

Rev. JaQuan Beachem

Yoga Under the Stars: Beneath the Twinkling Night Sky

Monday, July 15

8:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Orchard Tent

This calming, gentle yoga flow invites you to decompress, unwind and reflect on the day's learnings and release the day's stresses while meditating on the joy found in God's creation. As you connect with the stillness of the night and the beauty of the stars, allow your heart to fill with gratitude and peace, carrying the joy of the day into a restful night and a spirit ready to continue the journey of unleashing joy.

Midday Mindfulness Moment

Tuesday, July 16 and Wednesday, July 17

12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Haley Lodge Porch

Amidst the hustle of Hall-Proctor Institute, take a sacred pause with yoga before lunch. Through gentle yoga postures and breathing exercises, this half-hour session is designed to help you reset and reconnect with your inner peace. Reflect on the morning's insights and open your heart to the joy that God brings, preparing yourself for an afternoon filled with inspiration and connection. All ages welcome!

Yoga After Dinner

Tuesday, July 16 and Wednesday, July 17

6:30-7:00 p.m.

Haley Lodge Porch

Gathering to ground in grace, we digest the day with this mindful movement class focusing on grounding your body and mind through slow, deliberate movements and meditative stillness. As we move through a series of restorative poses, we will integrate mind, body, and soul, creating a harmonious blend of physical relaxation and spiritual preparation. Leave this session with heart open and spirit lifted, ready to enter worship with a sense of peace and jubilant expectation. All are welcome!

Open Mic and Conversation

Common Hymnal

Tuesday, July 16 and Wednesday, July 17

9:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

Riggio-Lynch Chapel

While some begin to depart for the hotel following the Great Preacher series worship services, others are energized by the day and brimming with something to share, say, or sing. Hall-Proctor's Late-Night Open Mic and Conversation is a dedicated, intergenerational space to share those gifts with others!

Check the shuttle bus schedule for information about late buses to transport participants back to hotels at the conclusion of the Late-Night Open Mic and Conversation.

IN THE
Heart OF
CLINTON
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

www.fbclinton.org

Our Mission is to be a...
Christ-like fellowship where the lost and lonely,
Needy, hurting and suffering people in our
Community will be accepted and can experience
the Joy of God's grace in their lives.



REV. DR. PRATHIA B. HALL



REV. DR. SAMUEL D. PROCTOR

American Baptist Home Mission Societies
is proud to sponsor the 2024 Hall-Proctor
Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry.

Unleashing
the JOY!



American Baptist
Home Mission
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CDF Haley Farm Emergency Information

CDF Haley Farm Severe Weather Emergency Plan

To ensure the safety of our guests, CDF Haley Farm staff asks that you carefully read the following important information:

In the event of a severe weather alert during this event, one long blast of an air horn will alert you to seek shelter. If the air horn sounds, please walk carefully, quietly, and quickly to the closest building that can provide shelter. CDF Haley Farm staff members will be available to assist all guests seeking shelter in a building on the property.

While in the shelter, CDF Haley staff members will instruct you on the nature of the emergency. Noteworthy information and instructions may be given, so please give the staff your undivided attention and cooperation.

When the emergency has passed, three short blasts of the air horn will alert everyone that the severe weather emergency has ended. Please remain sheltered until a CDF Haley staff member announces that it is safe to go outside.

It is crucial to note that under no circumstances should anyone seek shelter under a tent, under the terrace at the chapel, or in the arbor behind the White House during a severe weather alert. If you have questions or need clarification about these instructions, please contact a CDF Haley Farm staff member.

Emergency Contact Information for the City of Clinton, TN

Clinton Police Department

Phone: (865) 457-3112

Address: 125 W Broad St. • Clinton, TN 37716

Distance: Approximately 5 miles/11 minutes from Haley Farm

Clinton Fire Department

Phone: (865) 457-2131

Address:

Headquarters • 125 W. Broad St.

Clinton, TN 37716

Fire Station • 100 Longmire Rd.

Clinton, TN 37716

HOSPITALS

North Knoxville Medical Center

(865) 859-8000

7565 Dannaher Dr. • Powell, TN 37849

Distance: Approximately 13 miles/17 minutes from CDF Haley Farm

Hours: Open 24 hours Sun.–Sat.

Methodist Medical Center

(865) 835-1000

990 Oak Ridge Turnpike • Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Distance: Approximately 14 miles/24 minutes from CDF Haley Farm

Hours: Open 24 hours Sun.–Sat.

Walmart Pharmacy

(865) 457-4909

150 Tanner Ln, Clinton, TN 37716

Distance: Approximately 1 mile/6 minutes from CDF Haley Farm

Anderson Crossing Pharmacy

(865) 494-8444

3318 Andersonville Hwy, Norris, TN 37705

Distance: Approximately 3 miles/8 minutes from CDF Haley Farm



**children's
defense fund**

unleashing the joy in growing up

CHILDREN'S SABBATHS® CELEBRATION

In communities nationwide, places of worship join in the meaningful observance of Children's Sabbaths. These observances occur during customary worship, prayer, educational, or community gatherings. Some places of worship collaborate with others, creating joint events. Others connect with numerous faith leaders and worship spaces for expansive, multi-faith community-wide celebrations.

For more information,
please scan the QR code.



ALUMNI HOMECOMING

October 18-20

CDF Haley Farm
1000 Alex Haley Lane
Clinton, TN 37716

To register, please scan
the QR code.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
**children's
defense fund**
unleashing the joy in growing up

Thank You

On behalf of Children's Defense Fund, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission of building community so all young people grow up with dignity, hope, and joy. Your commitment to advocating for children and youth is invaluable. With your generosity, we have been able to provide crucial resources, amplify young people's voices, and foster systemic change.

Your contributions have empowered us to fight for equity, justice, and a brighter future for all children and youth. Your partnership fuels our resolve and reminds us that our collective efforts truly make a difference. Together, we are transforming lives and shaping a more just and equitable society for generations to come.

Special thanks and appreciation to the exceptional caterers, servers, and staff of partner hotels for their outstanding service. We also express our gratitude to the Haley Farm staff, volunteers, speakers, presenters, CDF Hall-Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry prophetic leaders and speakers, musicians, worship leaders, Black Student Leadership Network ambassadors, and Dale Andrews Freedom Seminary teaching faculty for their invaluable contributions. Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have enriched this event, inspiring us all in our collective mission to unleash the joy as we advocate for our nation's children and youth.





**children's
defense fund**

unleashing the joy in growing up

Children's Defense Fund builds community
so young people grow up with dignity,
hope, and joy.

*For more information about Children's Defense Fund,
please visit: **childrensdefense.org***



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childrensdefense.org