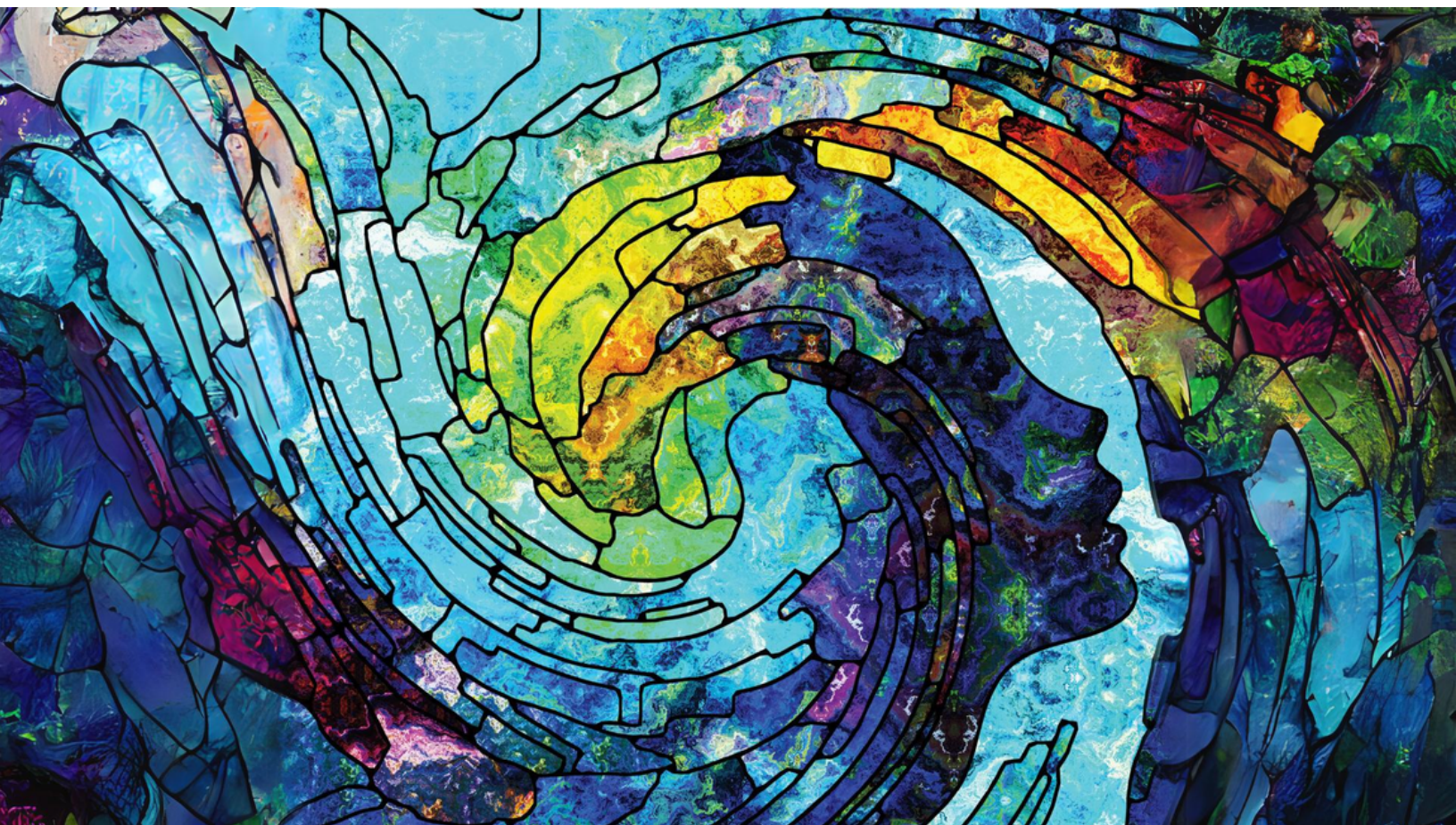




# **CONFRONTING WHITENESS**



# CONFERENCE

**MAKE IT RIGHT:  
THE CASE FOR REPARATIONS**

FEBRUARY 3, 2024



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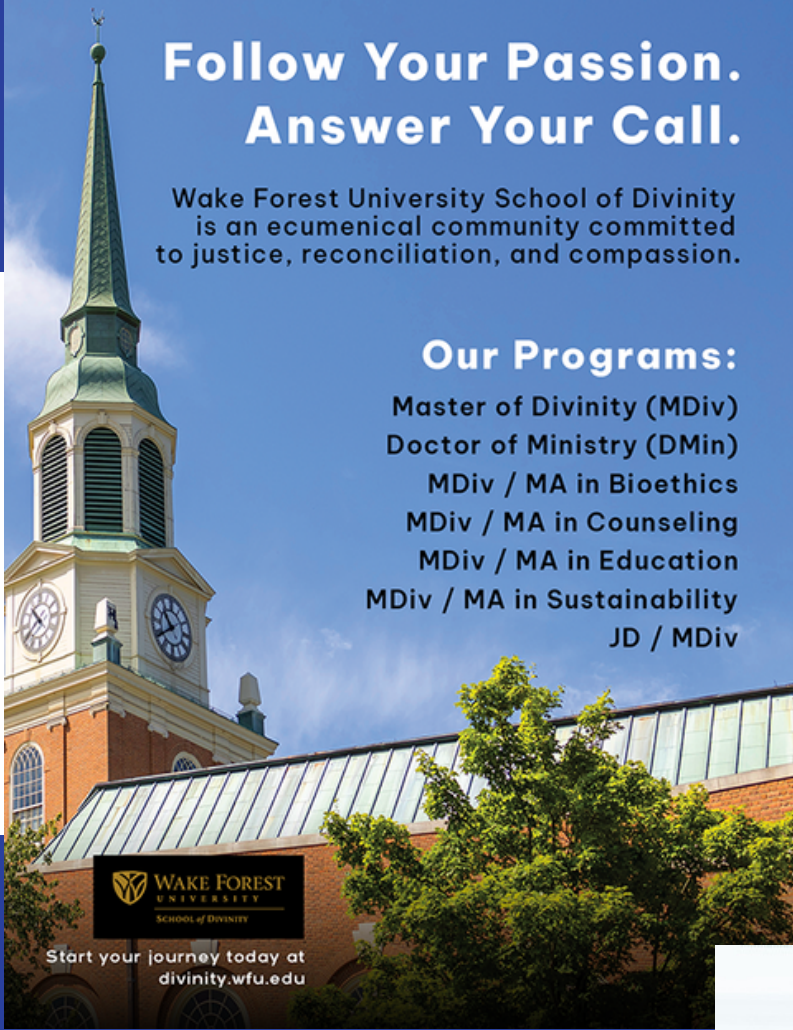
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# WELCOME



Reparations are needed to heal the American psyche.

Ta-Nehisi Coates

## **Welcome to Confronting Whiteness 2024 - #CW24**

We are incredibly grateful that you have chosen to join us for this exciting time of connection, learning, and transformation as we come together to discover what it means to confront whiteness in our lives, our neighborhoods, our faith communities, our cities, our nation, and our world. We have a wonderful line-up of events and speakers that includes Ashley M. Jones, William A. Darity Jr., A. Kirsten Mullen, and Drew G. I. Hart.

The Confronting Whiteness conference is a gathering of people on a journey of becoming more deeply anti-racist by learning to identify, confront, and divest from whiteness. This event brings together people from all over the country who are seeking to be anti-racist in their spheres of power and influence. Many in attendance have participated in the Confronting Whiteness spiritual formation and anti-racist training course I created in 2019 and launched after the horrific murder of George Floyd. Over 600 people have completed one of these intensive small groups and there are now over 40 trained facilitators leading Confronting Whiteness courses all over the country.

The work of confronting whiteness is a lifelong endeavor that requires vigilance in continuing education and ongoing training. If we cease from exercising the anti-racist muscles that we've developed, they will begin to atrophy. Progress is not inevitable. As Dr. King said, "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle." This yearly conference offers all people the opportunity to come together to share our experiences, invite others to join us on this journey, learn more about the evil whiteness, build relationships of solidarity, and to discover what this movement is becoming among us and in our world.

Naturally, as human beings and as a society, we regress if we don't regularly engage in anti-racist work. The current scourge of white backlash sweeping our country just three years since the broad-sweeping interracial movement for justice that was galvanized after the murder of George Floyd is case in point. Sustaining ourselves in this sacred and holy work requires building capacity for resilience. We need friends. We need each other. We need fellowship. We need community.

We created the Confronting Whiteness Conference to be a yearly opportunity for people racialized as white who are working to be anti-racist to come together with people of color for a time of relational connection, spiritual grounding, continuing education, capacity building, recommitment, and collective liberation.

CW conferences are designed to be spaces where we are reenergized for the work of anti-racism and to be nourished together with food for the journey from each other and from world-class scholars, authors, activists, thought leaders, and theologians. We gather to learn and relearn the best practices and to discover the most up to date tools and techniques for confronting whiteness in our spheres of power and influence.



# WELCOME

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continued

Our theme for this year is “Make it Right,” because the work of anti-racism necessarily leads to questions about how to make amends and create a just and equitable world. Some imagine that we can simply move forward into the future without accounting for what happened in the past. However, history has a way of repeating itself when there is no accountability and no responsibility for the injustices of the past.

One of the tragedies that distinguishes America from places like Germany and South Africa is that there has never been material accountability for the evil of slavery. If slavery is our original sin, then failing to make reparations is our original curse. One of the primary reasons white Americans re-create slavery by another name in each generation (i.e., segregation, red lining, urban renewal, and mass incarceration) is because we've never reckoned with our past. The ghosts of the confederacy continue to haunt us.

In most religious traditions and moral philosophies, justice requires three things: 1) a recognition of wrongdoing, 2) a commitment to change going forward, AND 3) restitution for the harm that was caused. This is why conversations about racial harm and the need for justice always return to the concept of reparations.

CW 24 brings together people at different stages of their anti-racism journey who are eager to discover what it means to confront whiteness individually and collectively. Our hope is that this conference can become a space where people who are racialized as white can continue their journey of confronting whiteness and partner with people of color in a movement for collective liberation.

At CW24 we will hear from some of the leading historians, artists, scholars, and theologians on the case for reparations and seek to discover how we can be a part of seeking justice in a material way and do our part to “Make it Right.”

Thank you for joining us for this conference. Keep on Confronting Whiteness!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. Benjamin Boswell".

Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell  
Senior Minister  
Creator of Confronting Whiteness



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# THE SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:45 am

Registration | Continental Breakfast  
(All food provided by Deeper Than Sweets)

9:45 - 10:00 am

Welcome from Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

10:00 - 11:00 am

**Plenary Session**  
Ashley M. Jones

11:00 - 11:30 am

Break

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Plenary Session**  
Dr. William A. Darity, Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen

1:00 pm - 1:55 pm

Lunch Break on campus

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Breakout Sessions  
See the description pages for the options

3:30 - 4:00 pm

Break  
(Final opportunity to purchase books)

4:00 - 5:30 pm

**Keynote Address**  
Dr. Drew G. I. Hart

## NOTE

All events will take place in Heaton Hall except for the Breakout Sessions. The breakout locations are listed on the session description pages.

## NEED A BREAK?

All are welcome to find a quiet space outside on our campus for contemplation whenever you feel the need. For those who prefer to stay inside or need room to process, we have a space designated for People of Color in Room 255 and a space for those racialized as White in Berry Hall.

## SUNDAY

All are invited to join us for worship tomorrow morning at 10am in the Sanctuary. Dr. Drew G.I. Hart will be preaching.

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# OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## DR. DREW G.I. HART

Professor, Author, Activist

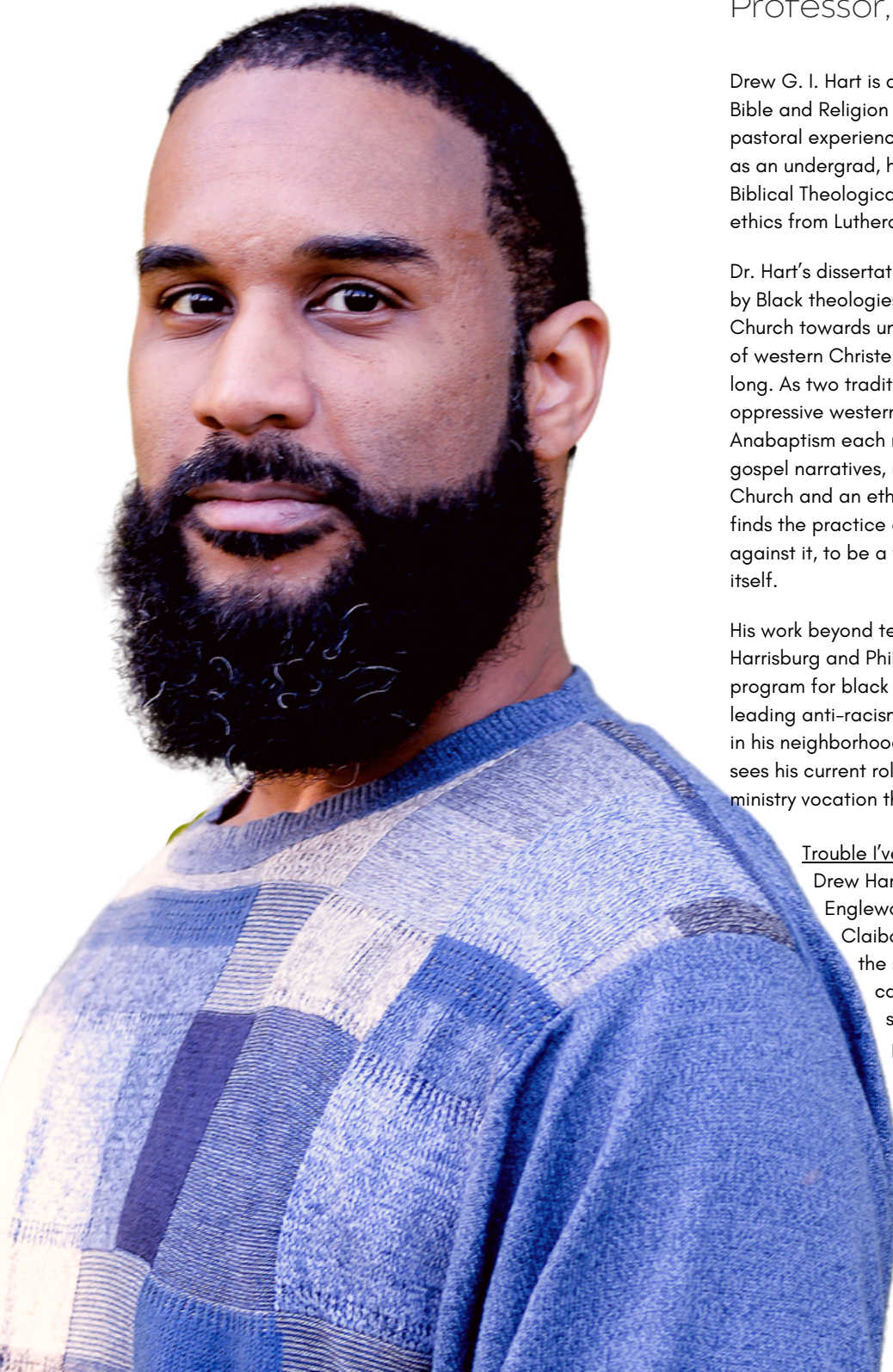
Drew G. I. Hart is an author, activist, and professor in theology in the Bible and Religion department at Messiah University with ten years of pastoral experience. Hart majored in Biblical Studies at Messiah College as an undergrad, he attained his MDiv with an urban concentration from Biblical Theological Seminary, and he received his PhD in theology and ethics from Lutheran Theological Seminary-Philadelphia.

Dr. Hart's dissertation considered how Christian discipleship, as framed by Black theologies and contemporary Anabaptism, gesture the western Church towards untangling the forces of white supremacy and the inertia of western Christendom which have plagued its witness in society for too long. As two traditions that emerged from the underside of violent and oppressive western Christian societies, he found Black theologies and Anabaptism each repeatedly turning to the particularity of Jesus in the gospel narratives, ultimately calling for an ethic of liberation in the Black Church and an ethic of peacemaking in the Anabaptist tradition. Hart finds the practice of reading Jesus not only for the Church, but also against it, to be a vital dimension in salvaging western Christianity from itself.

His work beyond teaching and writing has included pastoring in Harrisburg and Philadelphia, working for an inner-city afterschool program for black and brown middle school boys, delivering lectures and leading anti-racism workshops, collaborating with faith-based organizers in his neighborhood, and doing a broad range of public theology. Hart sees his current role as a theology professor as an extension of his ministry vocation that began with pastoral leadership.

[Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism](#) by Drew Hart, was chosen as a 2016 book of the month by Englewood Review of Books. Reviewing the book, Shane Claiborne said, "This book is a gift from the heart of one of the sharpest young theologians in the United States. Hold it carefully, and allow it to transform you—and our blood-stained streets." As a text, *Trouble I've Seen* utilizes personal and everyday stories, Jesus-shaped theological ethics, and anti-racism frameworks to transform the church's understanding and witness.

Dr. Drew Hart was recently the recipient of bcmPEACE's 2017 Peacemaker Award for his local and national work. You can find some of Hart's writing at his blog entitled 'Taking Jesus Seriously' which is hosted at [The Christian Century](#), or you can catch him as he travels and speaks regularly across the country to colleges, conferences, and churches.



# 24

# PLENARY SPEAKERS



## ASHLEY M. JONES

Alabama Poet Laureate, teacher, editor, and essayist

She received an MFA in Poetry from Florida International University (FIU), where she was a John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Fellow. She served as Official Poet for the City of Sunrise, Florida's Little Free Libraries Initiative from 2013-2015, and her work was recognized in the 2014 Poets and Writers Maureen Egen Writer's Exchange Contest and the 2015 Academy of American Poets Contest at FIU.

*Reparations Now!* her smart and timely third collection offers, perhaps, the most unabashed version of her incisive observations about what it means to be Black, a woman, and sensitive to the connection between history and the contemporary moment. The poems are often deeply personal, always beautifully crafted, as heartbreaking as they are wry, and, occasionally, outright funny. Jones transforms the mundane into religious iconography, all while making the case for reparations to reclaim all that has been lost personally and historically.



## DR. WILLIAM DARITY, JR.

Economist and Researcher

## A. KIRSTEN MULLEN

Writer, Folklorist, and Museum Consultant

A. Kirsten Mullen and William Darity Jr., PhD, are co-authors of *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century*, which has been awarded the 2021 Lillian Smith Book Prize, and the 2021 Inaugural Book Prize from the Association of African American Life and History.

A. Kirsten Mullen is a folklorist and the founder of Artefactual, an arts-consulting practice, and Carolina Circuit Writers. She was a member of the Freelon Adjaye Bond team that was awarded the commission to design the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

William Darity Jr. is the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy, African and African American Studies, Economics, and Business, and the founding director of the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University. He was the founding director of the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality at Duke.



# 24

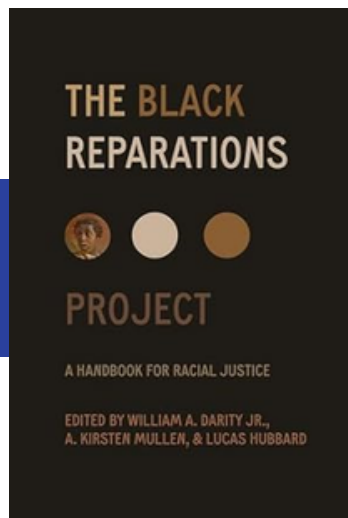
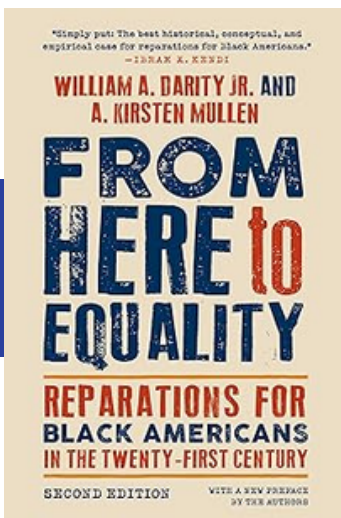
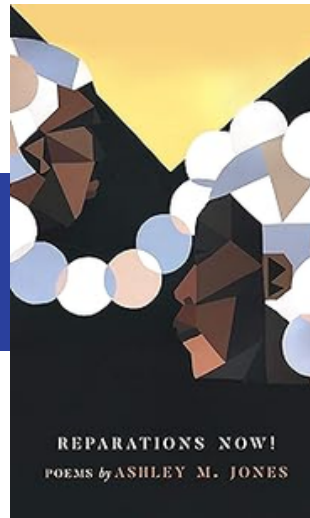
# BOOKS AVAILABLE for PURCHASE

in the foyer

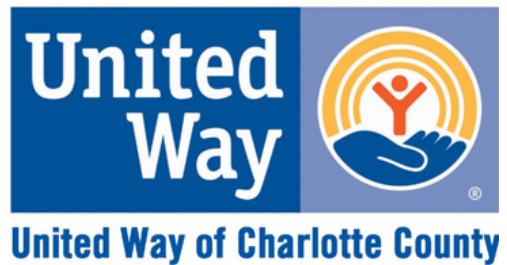


Drew Hart

Ashley M. Jones



Dr. William Darity, Jr.  
& A. Kirsten Mullen



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**csjr**  
Center for Social Justice  
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The Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation (CSJR) was founded in 2017. Grounded in a ministry that is mandated in scripture, the CSJR was established to remind seminarians of the significance of social justice work as part of ministry and to bring the activist community into the seminary. We provide educational forums to help people learn about relevant movements for change and seek to center social justice in our larger seminary community. The CSJR also supports the Reimagining America Project ([www.reimaginingamericaproject.org](http://www.reimaginingamericaproject.org)).



We would love to hear from you! For additional information, please contact Rodney Sadler ([rsadler@upsem.edu](mailto:rsadler@upsem.edu)) or Erin Mills ([emills@upsem.edu](mailto:emills@upsem.edu)), visit [www.upsem.edu/csjr](http://www.upsem.edu/csjr), check out our YouTube channel (@UPSem) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@upsemcsjr).

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—Angela N. Parker, Mercer University



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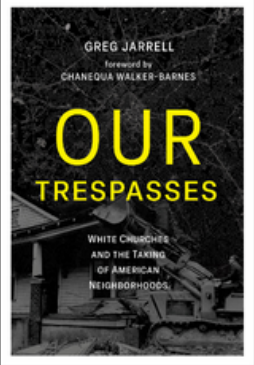
Available February 20 from Fortress Press  
*Our Trespasses: White Churches and the Taking of American Neighborhoods*  
 by Greg Jarrell

Advance praise for *Our Trespasses*:

**White churches, you do not have to choose silence. This is your clarion call.**

-Chanequa Walker-Barnes





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# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Lucretia Berry, PhD

## **Hues of You - Repairing Mindsets for Building Cultural and Racial Competency with Children**

How do you practically nurture cultural and racial competency, enabling open and developmentally appropriate conversations about phenotype, race, culture, ethnicity, etc. that are essential for shaping positive attitudes, reducing harmful biases, and fostering belonging in children without overwhelming them or yourself?

Join Dr. Lucretia Carter Berry, educator and author, as she teaches you how to ignite curiosity, foster comprehension, and build connections that transcend borders with (1) the 'Hues of You' activity book, crafted for joyful learning, (2) the 'Hues of You' Framework, a practice-oriented approach and (3) the three essential practices every caregiver needs to implement.

Shalom Hall

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

## **What is Confronting Whiteness?**

Have you heard people talking about the Confronting Whiteness course and wondered what all the fuss is about? Are you interested in possibly taking the course and want to learn more? Are you curious about where the idea for Confronting Whiteness came from and how this conference originated? If so, then join Dr. Ben Boswell, the creator of Confronting Whiteness, to hear more of the story, what it means for you, and how you can participate. We want to come alongside you as a resource in your work to become an anti-racist force for good in your sphere of power and influence.

Conference Room

Jamila Green

## **The 1619 Project**

The 1619 Project docuseries explores the many topics examined in Pulitzer Prize winning author and journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones' book of the same title. The Emmy award winning series seeks to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of national narrative. From June- December, YWCA hosted monthly viewings and candid discussions across the Charlotte area focused on each docuseries episode. We also invited community advocates, educators, and creators to each discussion to dive further into each episode's purpose. For the Confronting Whiteness Conference, we will view and discuss the series' last episode - Justice. This episode focuses on the racial wealth gap, reparations, generational wealth and the idea of restitution.

Library





# BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



## LUCRETIA BERRY, PhD

Author, Educator, Speaker, and Visionary  
Founder of Brownicity

A former college professor, her research, experience, and accomplishments intersect curriculum and instruction, multicultural education, and instructional technology. A wife in an interracial marriage and mom of three multiethnic children, she brings personal and professional experience to serve the public sector. Lucretia is also a valued contributor to *incourage.me*, sharing her insights and wisdom on topics of faith, resilience, and personal growth. Through her books, *Teaching for Justice and Belonging - A Journey for Educators and Parents* (2022), *Hues of You - An Activity Book for Learning About the Skin You Are In* (2022), and *What LIES Between Us - Fostering First Steps Toward Racial Healing* (2016), her impactful TED Talk, and her commitment to building just communities, Lucretia encourages meaningful engagement that transcends boundaries, fostering personal development, resilience, and the transformative capacity within each of us.



## REV. DR. BEN BOSWELL

Creator of *Confronting Whiteness* and  
Senior Minister of Myers Park Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell is the creator of the *Confronting Whiteness* course and founder of the movement who serves Myers Park Baptist Church at the intersection of strategic leadership, spiritual formation, and social justice. Dr. Boswell is a preacher, pastor, author, civil rights leader, and sought after public speaker who works to confront whiteness in every aspect of church and society for the purpose of bringing collective liberation to all people.



## JAMILA GREEN

Community Engagement Manager + Creative |  
Bridge Builder For The Greatest Good

Jamila Green serves as the community engagement manager at YWCA Central Carolinas. She has been actively involved in nonprofit work focused on education and youth for the majority of her professional life. Jamila graduated from Winston-Salem State University with a bachelor's degree in psychological science. She holds a master's degree in community social psychology from the University of Massachusetts and a certificate in nonprofit management from UNC-Charlotte. Jamila's education, experience and passion for supporting diverse communities make her a strong advocate for educational access, equity, and opportunities for those with limited access to resources related to successful outcomes.



# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

continued

Greg Jarrell

## **Our Trespasses: White Churches and the Taking of American Neighborhoods**

White churches and their members use the spatial arrangements of cities and towns to enforce and reinforce the domination system of white supremacy. With author and theologian Greg Jarrell, this session will explore the story of Urban Renewal in Charlotte, with close attention to the entangled stories of one Black family and one white church. Participants will look for the faulty theological grounds used to justify the displacement of people from their places. What has been the cost to Black families? To White souls? How might we repair the damage?

Room 254

Dr. Gerardo Marti

## **Whiteness and American Christianity: A Brief History**

Conquest of the Americas and racial subjugation in the 1400s all occurred within a Christian worldview. Christianity provided the framework, settled the debates, and ultimately blessed the new prosperity found in the dispossession of indigenous land and the importation and use of African labor. From the beginning, a theologically grounded racial hierarchy favoring whiteness governed the extraction of raw materials, the growth and trade of agricultural products, and the enslavement and policing of native Amerindians and imported Africans—and the system was encoded in white-favoring immigration policy and property laws. The union of Christian theology and church practice to white supremacy would determine the future of American society and politics.

Room 261

Ricardo Millhouse,  
PhD

## **It's in the Place: Geography and the Case for Reparations | Virtual**

This breakout session provides a comprehensive exploration of the intricate historical and cultural connections that exist between geography, design, racism, and injustice. Participants will delve into the profound impact of space and place on the ongoing struggle for reparations, gaining a deeper understanding of the multifaceted dimensions involved in this complex issue. By examining the intricate interplay between geography, racism, and injustice, attendees will be equipped with invaluable insights into the critical importance of addressing these interconnected factors in their everyday lives.

Room 250

# 24

# BREAKOUT SPEAKERS

continued



GREG JARRELL

Cultural Organizer, Author, Musician

Greg is a cultural organizer with QC Family Tree in the Enderly Park neighborhood of Charlotte, NC. He works with words and music to impact housing and neighborhood justice issues. Jarrell writes about theology and history and co-leads Carolina Social Music Club, a popular jazz band.

Greg is author of two books. His book *Our Trespasses: White Churches and the Taking of American Neighborhoods* (Fortress Press), has won wide acclaim for its lucid storytelling and new research. He has written widely, including for *Sojourners*, *The Bitter Southerner*, and *The Charlotte Observer*. Greg is a regular contributor at *Baptist News Global*. He frequently speaks, teaches, and preaches on place, race, and faith.



DR. GERARDO MARTÍ

William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology,  
Davidson College

The focus of Dr. Martí's research and teaching is race, religion, and social change. He is invested in uncovering the dynamics of contemporary issues like inequality, religious innovation, and political power. His courses resource students to think for themselves & are best characterized by a cooperative process of critical thinking & analytical dialogue.

His most recent leadership experience includes President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (2022-2025), President of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (2021-2024), Interim Executive Director of the Louisville Institute (2022-2023).



RICARDO MILLHOUSE, PhD

Spatial Ethnographer and Humanistic Social  
Scientist

His work explores Black queer geographies, qualitative research methods, interiority, sensation, and design justice. RJ's current book project discusses the impact of urbanization on Black queer public cultures. Further, the book explores spatial deprivation, sensation, and economic deprivation under patterns of urbanization across US urban landscapes, focusing primarily on Black queer people and how and to what extent Black queer placemaking is forged as a resistance strategy. With an eye toward design justice, RJ prioritizes collaborative and community-focused research projects and design thinking that complicates existing, traditional conceptions of atmosphere, interiority, gender, sexuality, environmental and urban design, and sensation.



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[THEOLOGY.MERCER.EDU](http://THEOLOGY.MERCER.EDU)

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[UNITEDWAYGREATERCLT.ORG](http://UNITEDWAYGREATERCLT.ORG)

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[UPSEM.EDU/CSJR](http://UPSEM.EDU/CSJR)

The Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation operates from the seminary's Charlotte campus and is directed by Associate Professor of Bible, Rodney S. Sadler Jr. Grounded in a ministry that is mandated in scripture, its two main goals are to remind people in seminary of the significance of social justice work as part of ministry and to bring the activist community into the seminary.



[GOODFAITHMEDIA.ORG](http://GOODFAITHMEDIA.ORG)

Reflection and resources at the intersection of faith and culture through an inclusive Christian lens. They strive to be a leading resource for people of faith who wish to stay informed about the pressing issues of the day and to be equipped to engage constructively in working for justice.



# 24

# SPONSORS

continued



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## BWIMNC.ORG

The purposes of Baptist Women in Ministry in North Carolina are to provide a network of support, fellowship, worship, advocacy and education for Baptist women and men who are seeking to honor God's call in Christ to women in all areas of mission and ministry, lay or ordained; and to dialogue and share information with NC Baptists concerning women in missions and ministry for the purpose of increasing understanding and awareness of our calling as women and men in Christ.

## QCFAMILYTREE.ORG

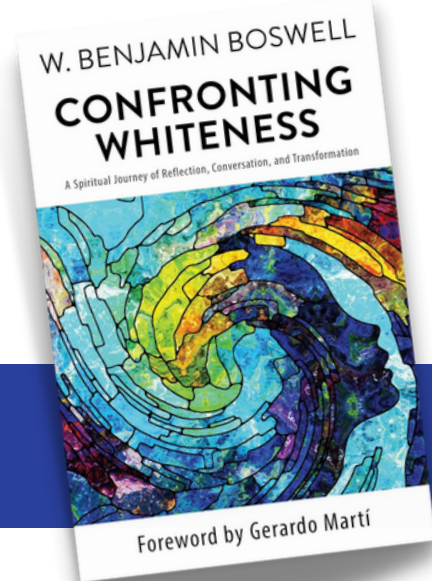
QC Family Tree, founded by Greg and Helms Jarrell, is an intentional Christian community forming relationships and seeking justice alongside residents of the Enderly Park neighborhood of Charlotte, N.C. We choose to cultivate a life and community that is thriving for all. Therefore, we believe our liberation from Imperial death culture is wrapped up in the liberation of the poor and marginalized of our place and society. We strive to prioritize the full liberation of Black people. We believe that the liberation of Black people in a white supremacist society will mean the liberation of all people - oppressed and oppressor.

## YWCACENTRALCAROLINAS.ORG

YWCA Central Carolinas' racial justice efforts have been part of the solution in the Charlotte community for decades. We advocate for policy changes that impact communities of color. We educate our community around issues of racial justice. We mobilize community members, giving them the tools to demand equity. We partner with organizations that are doing the work that will make our systems more equitable for people of color.

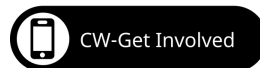
## POORPEOPLES CAMPAIGN.ORG

In 1968, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others called for a "revolution of values" in America. They sought to build a broad, fusion movement that could unite poor and impacted communities across the country. Their name was a direct cry from the underside of history: The Poor People's Campaign (PPC). Today, the PPC: A National Call for Moral Revival has picked up this unfinished work. Throughout the country, people are coming together to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.



# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Scan the QR Code 



## TAKE THE COURSE!

In the fall of 2019, Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell was writing his doctoral thesis and completing his project. During that course and that project seven members of Myers Park Baptist Church were led through the Confronting Whiteness course. Since that time, over 500 participants across the country and even into other parts of the world have journeyed for 9 weeks in discovering how to confront their own whiteness. Participants have ranged in age, life experience, vocation, educational level, and experience in racial equity work. There have been stay at home parents and attorneys, clergy and retired businesspeople. They have been racialized as white, black, indigenous, and Latino. This course is truly for everyone who has been impacted by whiteness and therefore is for everyone.

Courses are 9 sessions long, each session meeting for 1.5 hours. There are readings and films to engage with each week. And most importantly there is the inner work and the communal sharing. Our facilitators are former participants who are trained and are in ongoing accountability with racial equity educators. This is not work that is intended to be done alone and participants join a large community of those who are committed to this work.

Courses are \$150 for those racialized as white, \$75 for students, and free for people of color. Sign up for a course today.

## BECOME A FACILITATOR

If you have taken the Confronting Whiteness Course and you are ready to journey with others in a new way, we encourage you to become a facilitator. Being a facilitator is rewarding and keeps you engaged in the work of Confronting Whiteness in a very tangible way. We make sure you are trained and have all the tools you need to facilitate with confidence. Facilitators are asked to participate in ongoing accountability sessions that are offered 10 times per year. Trainings are offered quarterly and are a 2-hour commitment: one hour of pre-work and one hour of live training offered via Zoom.

The cost to become a facilitator is \$200 for your training then \$100 annually to maintain your status.

## SIGN UP FOR A CW AFFINITY RESPONSIBILITY TRIAD (ART)

The work of confronting whiteness in our everyday lives is incredibly challenging. We move through life so fast that we often don't have time to process all that is happening in and around us. It is very easy for our anti-racist muscles to atrophy or for us to get out of practice. We believe that confronting whiteness is impossible for anyone to do alone on an island. This is why the course is a small group experience, why we built a community of facilitators, and why we bring everyone together for a yearly conference. We want to take the shared work of confronting whiteness to a new level through the launch of our Affinity Responsibility Triads (ART). An ART is a group of three people who have completed the CW course who commit to meet regularly and share the ways that whiteness continues to show up in their lives and how they are working to confront whiteness in themselves, in others, and in society. We believe that these triads can be a way for people to share their lives together, hold one another accountable for the work, and grow more deeply on the journey of becoming anti-racist people in our spheres of power and influence. If you are interested in being placed in an Affinity Responsibility Triad, please fill out the form using the QRCode above. We celebrate you and your willingness to journey deeper.





# NOTES



# NOTES





# NOTES



# NOTES



CONFRONTING WHITENESS CONFERENCE

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NC

FEBUARY 3, 2024