

HOW THEN *Shall We Live?*

Covenantal Life in the Midst of Coronavirus & White Supremacy

Alliance of Baptists 2021 Annual Gathering Workshops

Friday, April 23, 11:30a EDT

Chaplaincy Through Pandemic Restrictions

Terri Tyson

Chaplaincy, like so much else in our world, has had to face an evolution of care to meet the changes required to provide care for patients and families. During this workshop, we will look at the changes that I have experienced as a chaplain both in a hospice and hospital environment then discuss how you have discovered new techniques for offering care in your settings.

COVID's Grief: What's Your Story?

Joy Berger

COVID-19: What's Your Story?" translates contemporary grief research and best practices into a warm, personal, supportive video. Its creative use of vivid images, texts, voice-overs, and music engages the person, and evokes their own stories of coping through this epic pandemic. Whatever your pastoral role — in the church, clinical settings, community, graduate education, or something else — update and strengthen your loss/grief knowledge, terminology, understandings, and best practices. This content was developed for and continues to be used by hospice bereavement programs throughout the United States since June 2020.

Food & Faith: How God Still Connects Us in a Troubled World

Neil Zahradka

In a time when equitable access to food and good health is tenuous, this workshop will provide participants with a contemporary perspective on the ancient connections between God and the equitable provision of food. Scripture repeatedly uses agrarian images to teach the mechanisms of grace, and this workshop will offer perspectives on how we can be instruments of grace as stewards of the earth that feeds humanity. Running counter to racial and economic disparities in nutrition, and historic and contemporary abuses of the agricultural labor force, we have timely opportunities to redeem agriculture in ways that benefit God's original plan.

Internal Equity: Hospitality and the Self

Kyndall Rothaus

Does your inner soul work match your outer values? Sometimes we attempt to do the work of justice without really going within, but this is half-baked activism, as likely to re-harm as it is to heal. But when we do our inner work, outer transformation follows. The less we marginalize pieces of ourselves, the more we expand our capacity for inclusivity externally. Come learn to honor the sacred council of your collective inner wisdom.

Recovering from Trauma and Recurring Trauma: WHOListic Careaa:

Reimagining Holist

Tiffany Stubbs

This workshop is designed to help bridge the gaps of recovering from trauma and recurring trauma through pastoral holistic care. The workshop will include contemplative exercises and information on body and spiritual-oriented approaches to offer healing. A special portion will include ways for clergy and ministry workers to engage in this process.

Spiritual Direction and Social Change: Developing Spiritual Strength for Promoting Justice

Jerry Gentry

Spiritual direction is usually thought of as a self-reflective experience, focusing on one's personal spirituality, beliefs, emotions, and relationship with God. It is seen as an inward journey, not an outward one. A trained spiritual director with a doctorate in Christian social ethics, I have an approach to help clients ("directees") who are interested in exploring both their inner spiritual resources and how those resources can equip them for social change. This workshop will explain the basics of spiritual direction, the spiritual growth one can expect from spiritual direction, and how one's spirituality can inform one's social activism.

The Three Disruptions Needed: An Afro-Centric Call to Society in Brazil and the United States

Ronilso Pacheco and Michael-Ray Mathews

The workshop aims to discuss the Brazilian context in relation to the theme of blackness and the Brazilian black community claiming Christian identity. We intend to share such initiatives as the Evangelical Black Movement, Afrocentric, Negritude Observatory of the Alliance of Baptists, and the new Black Theology in Brazil has played an important role in the Brazilian reality and has helped black people to reconnect the Christian faith. With this, the workshop aims to establish a conversation that broadens the understanding of black Christian identity and resistance in the diaspora. The idea of the "three disrupting" is to reflect context-history-perspective-ecclesiology in three blocks that demand attention and action: abandonment, becoming black and white supremacy. Action responses given these three blocks, they should be considered as responses to the question "How then should we live?"

Trauma-Informed Pastoral and Spiritual Care

Eileen Campbell-Reed

In this year of the twin pandemics of coronavirus and racial injustice, the traumas that people experience in life — from accidents, assaults, abuse, and other ruptures — are amplified. Simultaneously, resources for coping have been diminished. The pandemics themselves are wide-scale, chronic and debilitating traumas. As professional and lay ministers, leaders in beloved communities, we need to cultivate our vision, skills and practices for offering trauma-informed care. This begins with understanding trauma,

knowing what pathways toward healing are viable, having resources and referrals ready, and knowing our strengths and limits as caregivers.

Youth Space #1

Keith Menhinick

Workshop description coming soon!

Saturday, April 24, 11:30a EDT

Antiracist Discipleship in Predominantly White Congregations

Stephen Stacks and Wesley Spears-Newsome

In this workshop, we will explore the implementation of several programs designed to develop antiracist consciousness at Greenwood Forest Baptist in Cary, N.C. Over the past few years, we have piloted a year-long Freedom curriculum for youth, a Freedom Ride pilgrimage for the entire congregation, and an intensive antiracist reading group syllabus for adults, all of which have led to significant movement in our church. We will describe these efforts, offer key takeaways, and provide resources for predominantly White congregations to adapt them for their contexts.

Do You Hear What I Hear? — Part 2

James Forbes, Lyn McLaughlin, Mel Williams, Nancy Hastings Sehested, and Jim Strickland; Mahan Siler, moderator

The impact of the elder conversation with Dr. James Forbes — "Do You Hear What I Hear?" — lives on. The challenge of his White Manifesto and conversation have sparked a response among some Alliance elders. Eight of the Alliance elders have completed a class led by Dr. Ben Boswell, pastor of Myers Park Baptist Church, "What Does It Mean to Be White?" In the workshop, four elders from this group experience will continue our elder conversation with Dr. Forbes.

Engaging People With Whom We Disagree

Matthew Tennant

Having experienced the violence in Charlottesville in 2017 and engaged with the BLM movement, Dr. Tennant has been developing ways to engage with people who have a different perspective than his own. This means talking and listening. In his book *Crossing the Lines We Draw* (Judson Press 2020), he describes these techniques. This workshop is a product of his experience and practice. Dr. Tennant's background as an academic theologian in Oxford informs his approach, but this practical workshop presents a method for engaging people with whom one might disagree.

Exploring the “Whiteness” of Jacob: The Challenges of Racial Reconciliation

Lauren Jones Mayfield and Tyler Mayfield

This workshop uses the compelling biblical story of the “reconciliation” of Jacob and Esau to challenge us to ponder anew a faithful condemnation both of racism and easy answers to this evil. What if we see Jacob as a depiction of “whiteness”? Many of Jacob's actions surrounding his reunion with Esau are self-serving and superficial. The problem with a reconciliation paradigm is that Jacob/Whiteness is never held accountable for previous actions. How might this story relate to current calls for reconciliation and the work of anti-racism? How do white people move beyond well-intended but shallow calls for reconciliation to a paradigm of repentance and reparation?

How Then Shall We Teach

Betsy Thigpen

The “How Then Shall We Teach?” workshop and subsequent participant discussion will explore how curriculum for children can reflect the new Alliance of Baptists covenant and the Alliance's commitment to deepening its awareness of racism and white privilege. Participants will watch a short video of the Myers Park Baptist Church Senior Minister reading his upcoming children's book, *Proud Pigeons*. They will be provided an opportunity to share the meaning and moral implications of the story from their adult perspective. Participants will then focus on how educators in religious settings might share/teach the meaning and moral implications of *Proud Pigeons* and other children's literature on race, whiteness, and multicultural issues.

No More White Saviors: Community-Based Approaches to International Mission Work with AMOS Health & Hope

Marissa Alaniz

Participating ethically in God's work in the world involves disrupting white saviorism, American exceptionalism, and other narratives that perpetuate the idea that privileged outsiders can "fix" systemic injustices in impoverished communities. As a Christian organization based in Nicaragua, AMOS Health & Hope reduces health inequities by working alongside communities in health, education, and development. In this session, you'll learn the basics of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and other community-based approaches that equip local leaders in creating the change that they imagine. We'll also explore how short-term missions can fit into this ongoing work to encourage long-term partnership and sustainable change.

Organizing for Racial Justice

Austin Almaguer

An antiracist activist "produces power and policy change, not mental change," writes Dr. Ibram Kendi in *How to be An Antiracist*. In this workshop, we will learn how the practice of community organizing can equip our local Alliance congregations to become antiracist in ways that create real policy change. Hear stories about how congregations across the country are building power, transforming their communities, and discovering new life through organizing for racial justice.

Theological TikTok: Thinking Through Online Ministry

Micah 'Benji' Belong

Workshop description coming soon!

Transforming Injustice! Art, Meditation, and Prayer

Kathy Manis Findley

Transforming Injustice! is a series of five watercolor paintings that capture the events and emotions following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. The dramatic and provocative paintings are combined with guided reflections and prayers. The

workshop will demonstrate how to use the five- or six-week group experience to encourage awareness, contemplation and commitment to racial justice. The workshop will include access to a group leader's guide.

Youth Space #2

Keith Menhinick

Workshop description coming soon!

More workshops are being added to this list. Please check back for more information.