



Racial Justice: Chronicles, Conversations, and our Christian Faith

March 14th • March 21st • March 28th
7 PM ET / 6PM CT

The Racial Justice Task Team of the NACCC, in partnership with the Center for Congregational Leadership, is sponsoring a three-part webinar series that will explore the topic of racial justice in America and its implications for our Christian faith walk.

“Racial Justice: Chronicles, Conversations, and our Christian Faith” will be held on consecutive Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. ET / 6 p.m. CT beginning March 14th and is free to attend.

- **March 14: “Chronicles”**

Brothers and sisters from within the NACCC discuss their experiences being marginalized and worse, solely because of the color of their skin.

Speakers: Rev. Lezlie Austin-Kennedy, Rev. Victor Hardy, Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt, and Rev. Dr. Lottie Jones-Hood

- **March 21: “Conversations”**

Linda Logan, Chief Inclusion Officer at Olivet College, and Matthew Teutsch, Director of the Lillian E. Smith Center at Piedmont College, will lead a discussion on how to hold conversations about racial issues within congregations that are predominantly Caucasian and not often directly affected by such issues. The Olivet College Gospel Choir will also perform.

- **March 28: “Our Christian Faith”**

This Town-Hall-style webinar will feature members of the Racial Justice Task Team in a free-flowing discussion focusing on how racial justice issues connect with the Christian Gospel and the exercising of Christian faith in 21st century America.

To register, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/racial-justice-chronicles-conversations-and-our-christian-faith-tickets-143008577505>.

For questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Shawn Stapleton, Center for Congregational Leadership Workshop Coordinator, revshawnstapleton@hotmail.com, 800.262.1620

Racial Justice: Chronicles, Conversations, and our Christian Faith

March 14: "Chronicles" Speaker Bios

Rev. Lezlie Austin-Kennedy, Rev. Victor Hardy, Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt, and Rev. Dr. Lottie Jones-Hood



The Reverend Lezlie Austin-Kennedy is currently serving as the Pastor of Cadman Memorial Congregational Church in Brooklyn, New York where she engages in life coaching, counseling, and discipleship education of the congregants and others. For six years she has led this congregation to new heights in their relationship with the Lord.

The Reverend Austin-Kennedy is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and served as Director of Development for ten years at the Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York, Jamaica, New York, where the Reverend Floyd H. Flake and Reverend M. Elaine Flake are the pastor and co-pastor respectively.

Her leadership abilities were honed at Xerox Corporation where she climbed the corporate ladder and became a confidential level manager. During her seventeen-year tenure with the company, she worked at the regional, branch, and local levels as well as divisional and corporate headquarter sites. Managing people, projects, and processes was engrained in her by serving in a host of managerial positions. She learned early on that supporting people was important to her and good for them.

Recently she served as the Director of Faith-based and Neighborhood Initiatives for a social services agency in the city. This assignment had her engaged in communities and congregations throughout the city building coalitions to help children and families.

After completing her childhood education in Queens, New York, Reverend Austin-Kennedy earned the Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Education from the State University of New York at New Paltz. Receiving the Master of Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary of New York City, she currently is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Alliance Theological Seminary. She is the proud mother of a teenage son.



The Reverend Victor E. Hardy was born in Norfolk, Virginia into a family legacy of devoted clergymen, lay ministers, community activists, school coaches, veterans, and teachers. His parents encouraged him to celebrate and honor his legacy of three generations of Pastors and Civic Leaders by continuing the work of social justice and equality.

In 1995, Rev. Hardy started his local civic journey in Mesa, Arizona marching with Mr. "Big John" Goode for observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a legal holiday. In 1999, Rev. Hardy moved his family to Chandler, Arizona where he began his student presentations of Leadership in Training on Diversity; and Unity and Tolerance through the Civil Rights Movement. He also became a volunteer member to: City of Chandler Celebration of Unity Planning

and Multi-Cultural Festival Subcommittees; Chandler For Our City; East Valley Jewish Community Center Diversity Committee; Friends of Chandler Symphony Orchestra and Chandler Center of the Arts and 2015-2016 Chair of Chandler's East Valley Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. To further the progressive work in Chandler's social justice movement he Founded with Officer David Woodward and Coach Stephen Carson the Chandler Men of Action (CMOA), an African American Male non-profit organization dedicated to work with African American Male Youths as mentors.

Rev. Hardy was ordained on September 16, 2012 and is currently the officiating Pastor of the Congregational Church of the Valley in Chandler, Arizona.

March 14: "Chronicles"

Speaker Bios



The Reverend Dr. Patrick F. Hunt is the pastor at Heritage Congregational Church in Berea, Ohio for the past fourteen years. He is married to Linda Hunt and has three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Pastor Hunt has been in the ministry since 1969 and received education at Youngstown State University, Moody Bible Institute, Liberty University, and achieved his doctorate from the Master's University Divinity School in Evansville, Indiana. He has served churches in Chicago, Illinois; Davenport, Iowa; People's Community in Berea, Ohio; and finally Heritage Congregational Church. He has served in ministry with Youth for Christ in Davenport, Iowa and in Cleveland, Ohio from 1974 to 1992 as well as the Athletic Director at Berea High School from 1992 to 2007.



The Reverend Dr. Lottie Jones Hood was born in a shotgun house on a 20-acre farm (without a mule) in Falcon, Mississippi in 1939. Her family migrated to Detroit, Michigan when she was six and she received her primary education in Detroit's public schools, graduating from Cass Technical High School at age 16.

Her academic background includes an undergraduate degree from Wayne State University, a Dual Masters in Business Management and Public Administration from Garrett Theological Seminary, a Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan, a Masters of Science in Historic Preservation with Dual Concentrations: Museum Administration and Historic Interpretation and Tourism, a Doctorate in Education from Wayne State University; a Doctorate in Ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary; and a Doctorate of Ministry from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary (received in 2009).

From 1977 until 1997 she served as President and CEO of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Greater Detroit Area. In 1985 she created and founded BABES (Beginning Awareness and Basic Education Studies), an internationally utilized prevention and Living Skills program that she still heads. This program has trained over 10,000 presenters who have reached over 1,000,000 children in all 50 states and five other countries. Additions to this program include: BABES Aboard the Underground Railroad, Suicide Prevention, Waging a War on Opioids Dealing with Evictions, Talking with Kids About the Coronavirus, and other timely topics.

From 1994 to 2014 she served as Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church of Detroit. She then retired and became Pastor Emeritus. She returned from 2019 to 2021 as Interim Pastor.

During her service with FCC Detroit, she was its longest-tenured Senior Minister since its founding in 1844. She was also its first woman Minister and first African American Minister. She also became the first African American elected as the Moderator of the NACCC in its history, which began in 1620.

During her tenure at FCC Detroit, she instituted the Friends of First Living Museum in which the nationally-acclaimed, and award-winning Flight to Freedom Underground Railroad is located. She also received a Lilly grant to cover a three-month sabbatical which allowed her and her husband to follow the route of the TransAtlantic Slave Trade from Bristol England to Buxton, Ontario.

She was recently interviewed for an International Congregational Journal article on the Mayflower Fest and the Promised Land which should appear shortly. Presently she is serving as a member of the NACCC Lay Ministry Training Program Editorial Board.

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March 21: "Conversations" Speaker Bios

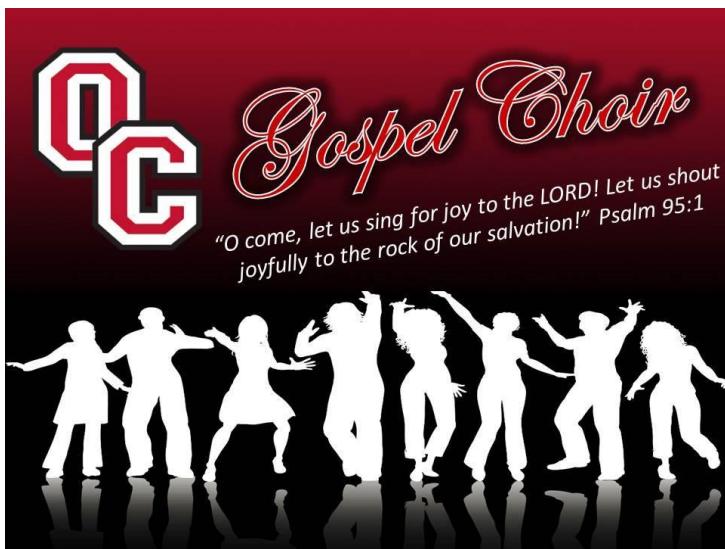
Linda Logan, PhD, Matthew Teutsch, PhD, and the Olivet College Gospel Choir

Linda Logan is the Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for Olivet College, Michigan. She holds a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Human Development, a Master's Degree in Counseling from Central Michigan University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Psychology from Saginaw Valley State University.

Dr. Logan serves as the President of the Michigan Indiana Women's Missionary Society. As President, she has worked with the missionaries of the region and the country to support overseas missions that provide support to Day Cares, schools, libraries, computer centers, ministry training, and essential resources in Jamaica, Haiti, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Vijayawada, India. She has served as President of the Lansing Women's Club Association and the Mid-Michigan Missionary Society. She also serves as a local minister with the Christian Episcopal Methodist church. Dr. Logan is a widow. She has two adult children, a son, Carter, and a daughter, Latasha, and seven grandchildren.



Matthew Teutsch is the Director of the Lillian E. Smith Center at Piedmont College. He maintains [Interminable Rambling](#), a blog on literature, culture, and pedagogy, and has published articles and book reviews in various venues including *LEAR*, *MELUS*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *African American Review* and *Callaloo*. His research focuses on African American, Southern, and Nineteenth Century American literature. He is the editor of *Rediscovering Frank Yerby: Critical Essays* (UPM 2020), and his current project examines Christopher Priest's run on *Black Panther*. You can follow him on Twitter at [@SilasLapham](#).



Olivet College Gospel Choir