



FAITH AND RACE:
CHALLENGING THE CULTURE
OF CRIMINALIZATION

ABOUT US

The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity is a California organization that connects people of faith to the work of social justice. We work to make the criminal justice system more just, and the immigration system more fair and humane.

In the last two years, we trained 1,800 people of faith to take leadership roles, engaged 180 congregations and partner organizations, and reached more than 40,000 people with a message of hope, love and resilience. We work in Los Angeles County, the San Bay Area, and the Inland Empire.

Our work around immigration: Immigrant Justice

We aim to protect the rights, dignity and well-being of immigrants in California. We have a network of dozens of Sanctuary and Immigrant Accompaniment congregations who support and advocate for people detained or threatened by deportation. We host regular prayer vigils at immigration detention centers. And we bring the voices of rabbis, imams, ministers and priests to coalition efforts that advocate for fairer immigration laws.

Our work around mass incarceration: Justice Not Jails

Currently, the focus of this work is in Los Angeles, home to the world's largest jail system. We have created a network of Beyond Bars Congregations committed to welcoming home formerly incarcerated persons and advocating for criminal justice reform. Our Justice Not Jails program engages faith advocates to divest resources from jails to invest in effective alternatives and promote greater accountability by law enforcement.

Like us on Facebook: @im4humanintegrity

www.im4humanintegrity.org

#JusticeWithoutJails

#CompassionWithoutWalls

#OpportunitiesWithoutBarriers

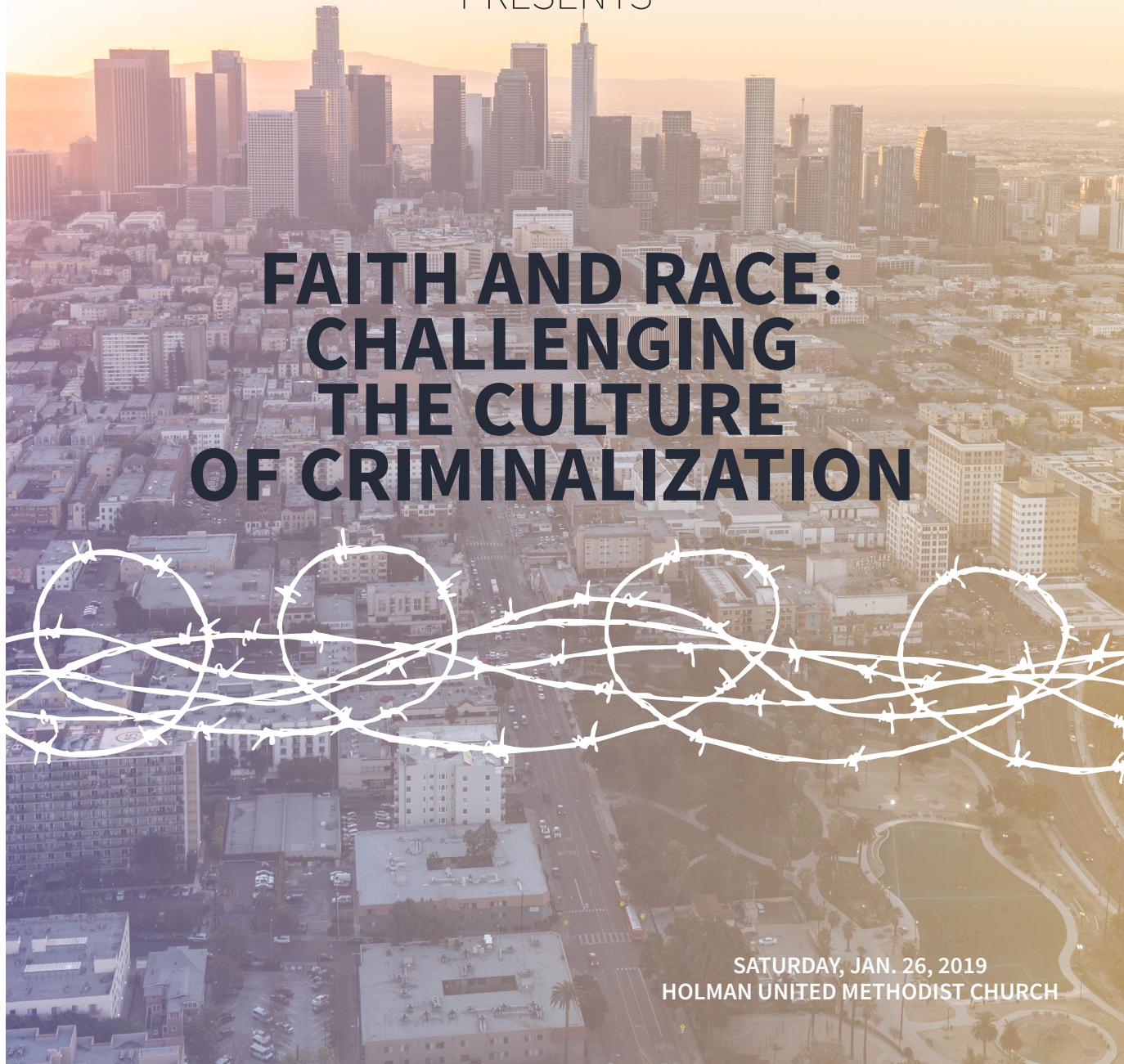


Booklet designed by Liz Wishaw, lizwishaw.com



JUSTICE NOT JAILS PROGRAM
PRESENTS

FAITH AND RACE: CHALLENGING THE CULTURE OF CRIMINALIZATION



SATURDAY, JAN. 26, 2019
HOLMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME

Friends,

Thank you for being part of our “Faith and Race: Challenging the Culture of Criminalization” conference.

We scheduled this conference this week because we believe our work today is rooted in the political and spiritual legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. May his memory impel us to dismantle the structures of racial supremacy so that no one falls outside the full circle of humanity. Our hope is that this conference will inspire and equip us as people of faith and conscience to challenge the culture of criminalization which underpins the systems of incarceration, detention and dehumanization. May we strengthen our resolve and organize our commitment to demand and create alternatives. May we embody the beloved community that we are called to be.

This conference is just the beginning. Please join Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI) across this state and beyond this conference in creative action to bring about our collective liberation and a more humane future. We believe in the power of faith and people like you.

Thank you for your presence today!



Rev. Deborah Lee
Executive Director,
Interfaith Movement for
Human Integrity

Greetings!

As the Coordinator of Justice not Jails, a program of Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, I welcome you to today's conference Faith & Race: Challenging the Culture of Criminalization. We are so pleased that you are here. The fact that you are present is an indication that each of you is a “drum major” for justice, and that it is your desire to see that the crippling and dehumanizing effects from a culture of criminalization through mass incarceration, immigrant detention, discriminatory public policies, corporate profiteering, and religious bigotry, are abolished from society and our nation.

Today's Faith and Race conference is intended to be informative, inspirational, and transformative — with the hope that we can become united across faith traditions, race, gender, and personal histories in search of envisioning concrete ways to systematically dismantle and abolish the prison industrial complex. To this end, during today's conference, we should not only lean on the expertise and shared experiences of our speakers and panelists, but let us also listen and learn from one another. Herein, collectively, we will unearth an alternative vision for a more just and humane society with Justice without Jails, Compassion without Walls, and Opportunity without Barriers.

Again, welcome and enjoy the conference.



Rev. Larry W. Foy,
Justice Not Jails
Coordinator

FAITH & RACE IM4HI CONFERENCE VALUES



Centering the Voices & Self-Determination of Directly-Impacted Communities

Majority of our speakers are formerly incarcerated and come from communities that have been directly impacted by our current and historical policies of racism and criminalization. We center their voices, perspectives and leadership.



Racial Justice as key to our work against criminalization

Our work to dismantle mass incarceration and criminalization must also combat the racial oppression of all communities of color.



Integrating Interfaith Principles and Practices

Our content and tools incorporate interfaith practices and educate on the opportunities for solidarity in interfaith activism.



Freedom for all

Our faith traditions call us to “welcome home” and “welcome in” all those in need of support. We strive to avoid categorizing people into “good” and “bad”, or “deserving” and “undeserving,” but unite under the common humanity that we share.



Prophetic

We acknowledge that our work today, in collaboration with other actors, bears witness to a visionary and public morality that has national implications.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9 a.m.: Registration & light breakfast

9:30 a.m.: Opening & Welcome,
Rev. Deborah Lee, Rev. Dr. Larry W. Foy,
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity

10 a.m.:
Speaker: "Setting The Theological Frame," Dr.
Charlene Sinclair, introduced by Rev. Peter Laarman

10:30 a.m.: Speaker: "Unmasking White Supremacy
& the Criminalization of People of Color," Dr. Kelly
Lytle Hernandez, introduced by Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs

11 a.m.: Speaker dialogue & table groups

11:45 a.m.: Mealtimes prayer

12-12:30 p.m.: Lunch

12:30 p.m.: Documentary Film: "The Real
Background Check" by Ms. Tiffany Johnson

1 p.m.: "In Their Own Voice,"
Returning Citizens & Residents Speak

Moderator: Lisa James, All of Us or None

Panelists:

- Ms. Sequarier McCoy, All of Us or None
- Mr. Dirk Patterson, Interfaith Movement for
Human Integrity Ambassador
- * Ms. Angelique Evans, All of Us or None
- Mr. Rodriguez, Interfaith Movement for Human
Integrity Ambassador
- Mr. Phal Sok, Youth Justice Coalition

1:45 p.m.: Table groups & questions to
panelists

2:15 p.m.: Cultural interlude

2:20 p.m.:
Beyond Bars Congregations Panel:
*"Faith Communities Accepting the
Challenge"*

Moderator: Mr. Troy F. Vaughn, Los Angeles
Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP)

Panelists:

- Rabbi Adam Siegel, Beit T'Shuva
- Marwa Rifahie, Esq., Council on
American Islamic Relations (CAIR)-LA
- Rev. Nora Jacob, UrbanMission &
Pomona Valley Reentry Coalition
- Pastor Cue Jn-Marie, The Row Church,
Black Brown Clergy Community Coalition

3:10 p.m.: Table groups & questions to
panelists

3:30 p.m.: Call to action: Rev. Larry W. Foy,
Justice Not Jails Coordinator

3:45 p.m.: Closing Ritual

4 p.m.: Farewell



Dr. Charlene Sinclair

10 a.m.: Setting The Theological Frame

Dr. Charlene Sinclair has devoted nearly three decades to strategic organizational development and community organizing around racial and economic justice.

Charlene currently holds the position of Managing Director of the Groundswell Fund, the country's largest funder of reproductive justice movement building.

At Groundswell, she manages capacity building and institutional leadership and is directing the recently launched Groundswell Action Fund, the largest c4 entity committed solely to black and women of color-led political organizing and power building.



Dr. Kelly Lytle Hernandez

**10:30 a.m.: Unmasking White Supremacy
& the Criminalization of People of Color**

Dr. Kelly Lytle Hernandez is a Professor of History and African American Studies at UCLA. She is also the Interim Director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA.

One of the nation's leading experts on race, immigration, and mass incarceration, she is the author of the award-winning book, *Migrar! A History of the U.S. Border Patrol* (University of California Press, 2010), and *City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion, and the Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles*.

Currently, Professor Lytle Hernandez is the research lead for the Million Dollar Hoods project, which maps how much is spent on incarceration per neighborhood in Los Angeles County.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF RACISM AND CRIMINALIZATION

1619: Enslaved Africans Arrive in North America The capture of a Spanish slave ship ended with the enslaved people being landed and sold in Virginia. America begins its descent into slavery and the horrors of the Middle Passage and a form of chattel slavery that was far more brutal and inhuman than the slavery that existed in the Spanish and Portuguese colonies.

1620: Special Providence Ideology Dissenting Protestant refugees from England come to North America with the idea that God had given them a special destiny and a right to take possession of a land that was already populated.

1704: Slave Patrols and Militias American policing originates when patrols are established in Carolina to ensure that runaway slaves were captured and returned. In addition, all white settlers in all colonies were required to be armed and to serve in militias for the purpose of seizing more Native lands and defending against possible slave insurrections.

1776-1787: The War for Independence proves to be a disaster for African-Americans and Native Americans. White settlers were defending their right to maintain slavery and to seize additional Native American land beyond the Appalachian Mountains. U.S. founders wrote the “three fifths” clause and other concessions to slave owners into the new Constitution.

1850: Fugitive Slave Act The so-called Compromise of 1850 between Southern slaveholding Interests and Northern Free-Soilers required the return of runaway slaves. It forced authorities in free states to return fugitive slaves to their masters. The citizens of free states had to cooperate, and free people of color remained at constant risk of being captured and re-enslaved.

1863-1865: Slavery was formally abolished through the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th amendment. Due to the “except as punishment for crime” clause in the 13th Amendment, however, white supremacists would retain a powerful tool for continuing to enslave, subjugate and control people of color.

1865-1910: The Convict Leasing System introduced “slavery by another name” by allowing local sheriffs to lease prison labor to private parties: planters and sawmills, steel mills, and mining corporations. Black men were rounded up with no due process so that their labor could be leased in this way, and the white lessors didn’t care if these men were worked to death because they could easily get replacements from the sheriff.

1868: Ku Klux Klan Following the Civil War, white supremacist group the Ku Klux Klan was established to terrorize the newly freed slaves. The Klan used Christianity and white supremacy as foundations for their terrorist activities, which included lynchings, kidnappings, and the burning of crosses on the lawns of African-Americans.

1877: End of Reconstruction and Proliferation of “Separate But Equal” Jim Crow Laws. Based on earlier Black Codes, the Jim Crow laws enforced racial segregation in the Southern U.S. and much of the North. Blacks were effectively disenfranchised in the South. Black education was

defunded. Enacted by state legislatures and city councils, these laws were consistently affirmed by the courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court in its notorious *Plessy v. Ferguson* case of 1896.

1882-1943: Chinese Exclusion Act In response to rising anti-Chinese sentiment, this blatantly racist act against immigrants based on race was passed by Congress with the blessing of most white Christian leaders. The law paved the way for the establishment of immigration detention centers and a process of deportation.

1880s-1945: American “Progress” At the Expense of Blacks All of the white-led “reform” movements (Populism, Progressivism, Women’s Suffrage, and the New Deal) that white people still celebrate carried a heavy price: the maintenance of rigid Jim Crow segregation. These “reforms” were going on while lynching and “eugenic” steps against people of color were at their high water mark.

1942: Mass Internment of Japanese Americans President Roosevelt ordered the imprisonment of 120,000 people of Japanese descent including mixed status families and US citizens as a so-called measure for national security for the duration of World War II.

1971: Controlled Substances Act Promoted by Richard Nixon as part of the “War on Drugs” that would be carried forward by other administrations, this law began the trend toward so-called “zero tolerance” policies that included mandatory minimum sentencing and stop-and-frisk searches of people of color. The War on Drugs was actually a “war” on the anti-war Left and on African Americans (admitted by a Nixon’s top aides).

1976: Uniform Determinate Sentencing Act Under this California law, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, the vast majority of convicted felons would receive fixed (“determinate”) prison terms and no longer appeared before a parole board prior to release. This sentencing system diminished incentives for inmates to seek rehabilitative services. Prison terms were now set in stone regardless of good or bad behavior.

1990: STEP Act (Gang Enhancements) This regressive California law, passed in the name of fighting gangs, created the “enhancements” for alleged gang-related activity that in turn produced excessively long sentences and other lifelong penalties that overwhelmingly targeted people of color.

1994: Three Strikes. Under California’s version of three strikes, people who committed three felonies could be jailed for 25 years even if the third offense was minor. This rigid law disproportionately harmed black communities through mandatory minimum sentencing.

1996: Welfare “Reform” President Clinton embraced and signed into law what began as a punitive Republican measure to impose work requirements and limits on cash assistance for people in need of government support. Rooted in the mistaken and racist idea that most people on welfare are Black, the new emphasis on “personal responsibility” also had huge consequences for criminal justice. Fathers failing to make child support payments were jailed and people with any criminal record were barred from access to food assistance, health care, housing, and SSI benefits.

ALSO PARTICIPATING



Ms. Tiffany Johnson is the creator of “The Real Background Check,” an animated documentary that features her life. It reveals the truth regarding background stories and examines the root causes of Tiffany’s 15 years to life incarceration term. The story is told by Tiffany Johnson and animated by Jonathan Clark. Tiffany and Jonathan have created a production company together titled Was Incarcerated Productions for the purpose of telling real untold stories through the arts. Their main focus is to change the narrative of incarceration and to help heal the heart.



Ms. Lisa James is a Community Organizer at All of Us Or None at A New Way of Life Re-entry Project. Lisa is a 54-year-old mother, grandmother, wife, and formerly incarcerated woman of color who left prison in 2004 and entered A New Way of Life Re-entry Project (ANWOL). In 2009, Lisa founded the Women in Transition Re-entry Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support for women coming home from jails and prisons. Lisa has been awarded numerous fellowships and awards, which includes being named as a 2008 Fellow of the Political Advocacy Institute of the California



Ms. Sequarier McCoy is a mother of five and a formerly incarcerated woman. She served 9 years of her life in prison where she became a drug & alcohol counselor and a prison activist standing in solidarity with her fellow sisters to secure their basic rights. After incarceration, Sequarier transitioned to A New Way of Life Re-entry project, and is an active member of All of Us or None (AOUON). Her activism has taken her to the halls of the California legislature and Florida to advocate for voting rights for people with felony convictions. Sequarier is currently employed by CEO Works, where she helps formerly



Ms. Angelique Evans is from Oakland, California. Angelique was placed in the foster care system when she was 3 years old, a system that failed her and set her on a path to prison. Angelique spent 10 years in state prison until she was paroled in 2018. Upon her release, Angelique was accepted into A New Way of Life Reentry Project (ANWOL) where she found her voice and gleaned the tools to speak on behalf of women and girls impacted by the criminal and juvenile justice system. She is now on her own path to living a healthy and productive life. She recently moved into her own apartment, enjoying the freedom and space often denied during childhood and taken away for a good portion of her adult life. Angelique is in the process of pursuing her vision of forming a non-profit to help young people in crisis and need.



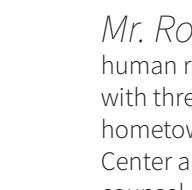
Mr. Phal Sok, parentless at age 16 and pushed out of the school system, Phal wound up in the juvenile justice system to be tried as an adult. After 16 years incarcerated, he became one of the first to benefit from enacted reforms and won an early release. But as an immigrant, that proved bittersweet, as release from prison meant being taken into immigration custody, where he was forced to navigate the second-most complex American legal system without an attorney. Using his self-taught legal education he was able to temporarily gain release and stop his deportation. Even though his future in the US was uncertain, Phal became a community leader. He is an organizer with the Youth Justice Coalition (YJC). Phal’s community work has garnered him much recognition and, most recently, a pardon from Governor Brown, which closed his deportation case.



Mr. Dirk Patterson was arrested at age 12 and caught his first drug case for marijuana. It resulted into a long history of being in and out of the criminal justice system for meaningless violations eventually culminating into 18 years of incarceration and 27 years on probation. In his own words, “I’ve been caught up ever since because of that one case.” Dirk is a graduate, with honors, from Westwood College of Aviation. He owns his own company and provides employment opportunities through his mobile car wash and detailing company. His crowning achievement is becoming a Pastor. He enjoys being a grandfather, supporting his children, cooking good food, horseback riding and family gatherings. He is an Ambassador with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity.



Mr. Troy F. Vaughn is the Executive Director and Chair of the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP), a network of over 400 organizations throughout Los Angeles County. LARRP is dedicated to creating viable housing and employment solutions and system-wide change for formerly justice-involved individuals. Mr. Vaughn also serves as Founder, President and CEO of Christ-Centered Ministries, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating housing and employment opportunities for the disenfranchised.



Mr. Rodriguez is a 24-year-old native of Honduras who fled his country seeking asylum, a human right under U.S. and international law. Mr. Rodriguez was forced to flee after he was faced with threats of financial extortion and violence, which cost the lives of those close to him in his hometown. While seeking asylum, Mr. Rodriguez was held at the Adelanto Immigration Detention Center along with nearly 2,000 other detainees. Like 85% in immigration detention, he had no legal counsel. While detained in the center for over 12 months, he was visited by Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity’s faith visitation teams, who helped to raise the \$10,000 bond so he can pursue due process in his immigration case from outside detention. He was recently released in December.



FAITH AND RACE:
CHALLENGING THE CULTURE
OF CRIMINALIZATION



Marwa Rifahie, Esq. is the Civil Rights Managing Attorney with the CAIR-LA Office. Marwa provides direct legal services to individuals who are victims of discrimination from both the government and private entities. Marwa is experienced in a diverse array of practice areas within the civil rights context including employment, national security, law enforcement practices, and prisoner's rights. Marwa received her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Middle East/South Asia Studies from University of California, Davis and received her J.D. from the University of Southern California, Gould School of



Rev. Nora Jacob is an ordained Disciples of Christ pastor who has served since 2014 as Restorative Justice Minister at UrbanMission, a United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ joint new church start in south Pomona, California. For five years, Nora has co-facilitated several restorative justice circles of accountability and healing each week with incarcerated students inside the California Institution for Men in Chino. She also co-founded and coordinates the Pomona Valley Reentry Resources Fair which is a "one-stop shop" working for the reentry and reintegration of men and women returning to their Pomona Valley communities after prison.



Chaplain Adam Siegel began serving as a spiritual counselor at Beit T'Shuva in 2010 and currently oversees its social action and community service initiatives. In 2014, Adam was ordained as a Chaplain from the Academy for Jewish Religion-California, while also serving in the Skirball Hospice program. Today, in addition to counseling residents, Adam coordinates social action programs at Beit T'Shuva, stressing the importance of service in personal recovery.



Pastor Stephe "Cue" Jn-Marie is the founder of THE ROW Church which worships, praises, feeds, and fellowship in downtown Los Angeles, on the streets of Skid Row - America's homeless capital. He is a former Virgin Records rapper, turned evangelist, activist and organizer, who left the music industry in 1994 to begin following God. After serving in ministries and planting churches that took a more traditional approach to practicing Christianity, Cue felt God leading him towards something different. He felt God calling him to the streets, and the seed that would become THE ROW was planted.



FAITH AND RACE:
CHALLENGING THE CULTURE
OF CRIMINALIZATION

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our conference planning team:

Rev. Art Cribbs, Rev. Larry Foy, Sharon Kyle,
Rev. Peter Laarman, Rev. Deborah Lee,
Dirk Patterson, Dick Price, Kianna Shann,
Curtis Shaw, Adam Siegel



Catering: Vanessa Howard, Diane Shelton



Singer: Al Reeves



Venue: Holman United Methodist Church



Videographer: Willie Caldwell



And our many volunteers!

Thank you to our conference CO-SPONSORS:

All of Us or None



Amity Foundation



Beit T'Shuva



Brave New Films



Council on American Islamic Relations - CAIR-LA



Fair Chance Project



Gailen & Cathy Reeves Community Center



LA Progressive



LA Filipino American United Church of Christ



LA Regional Re-entry Partnership (LARRP)



Lincoln Memorial UCC



National Religious Campaign Against Torture



UrbanMission



Ward AME Church,
Rev. John E. Cager III, Senior Pastor