Theological Reflection Groups

TI2016 presents conversation as a learning opportunity: a chance to engage in deep listening and truth telling and, as a result, develop the skills to create change within a troubled system. By having these difficult conversations, we can build the underlying capacities and willingness to address the racial tensions of our time. “Not everything that is faced can be changed,” wrote the late James Baldwin, “but nothing can be changed if it is not faced.”

After the plenary sessions, participants break into small groups designed and facilitated to continue the conversation with peers, practicing the kinds of transformative conversations that may be carried back to their local contexts. TI holds that skills such as deep listening are learnable, and that equipped with such knowledge, each participant can create a ripple effect of positive change in the community.

Reflection groups are led by expert facilitators, specifically trained in leading discussions about race and racism. These guides foster a safe space to have these conversations as a learning process.

Reflection Group Design Team

A team of experienced race-conversation facilitators have been convened to plan the reflection sessions and to offer guidance on facilitation methods.

**Beth Applegate** owns and leads an organization development (OD) practice with three decades of experience with national and international social sector agencies, academic institutions, governmental agencies, and socially responsible for-profits. She facilitates workshops on white privilege, diversity, and inclusion at various national and international conferences.

**Dr. Robin DiAngelo’s** scholarship is in race relations and white racial identity. She teaches courses in multicultural teaching, inter-group dialogue facilitation, and social justice. She has twice been honored with the Student’s Choice Award for Educator of the Year.

**Darlene Flynn** has more than ten years of experience providing racial equity training to build capacity for working to eliminate racial inequity in Seattle, Washington. She has worked extensively with cross-racial teams seeking to organize for the advancement of pro-equity institutional and structural change.

**Roz Hall** has been a member of the Parish of Trinity Church/St. Paul’s Chapel since 1987. She serves as Co-Chair of the Task Force against Racism and Co-Chair of the Prison Ministry Task Force, subcommittees of Witness & Outreach.

**Dr. Kathy Bozzuti-Jones** is a faith formation professional, spiritual director, and ordained interfaith minister, whose academic work in Christian Social Ethics explored the virtue of mercy and mutuality in the work of Jon Sobrino and Jean Vanier.

**Chandra Goforth Irvin, MEd, MDiv,** has consulted for more than 20 years with organizations across the US providing such services as: cultural assessments; cross-cultural dialogues; and strategic planning, education, and training for diversity and inclusion. For 14 years she served as Executive Director of the Diversity Strategy Consortium, a group of Fortune 500 corporations that examined domestic and global diversity issues and developed strategies for advancing diversity leadership, accountability, communications, and performance.

**Mark B. Jennings** is a Paulo Freire aficionado who serves as Director of Housing for Community Access, Inc. He holds an MDiv from Harvard Divinity School and an MSW from Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College.

**Heidi Kim** is the Missioner for Racial Reconciliation for the Episcopal Church. She is responsible for facilitating the establishment and growth of networks in the Church that confront structural issues of racism in society and the Church. She has an extensive background in both secondary and higher education and has served as Diversity Director for a Jesuit high school for six years.

**Ali Lutz** is a priest from the Diocese of New York who has worked for many years in rural Haiti, both as a priest and aid worker. Ali is pursuing a PhD in Ethics and Society at Vanderbilt University’s Graduate Division of Religion in Nashville, Tennessee.

**David Peters, LMSW,** is a social worker in private practice who is committed to improving the lives of children and families. He recently served as the Project Co-Coordinator for Communities for All Ages, an initiative that works to make New Rochelle a better place for growing up and growing older. He currently is a trainer with the Peoples Institute for Survival and Beyond.

**Shelly Tochluk** is the author of *Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk about Race and How to Do It*. An educator with a background in psychology, Shelly spent ten years as a researcher, counselor, and teacher in California’s public schools. She received her PhD in Depth Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute in 2005, where she investigated how white racial identity impacts friendship relationships.

**Jorge Zeballos** is the executive director for the Center for Diversity and Innovation, housed at the Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, Michigan. The mission of the Center is to build the capacity of institutions across all sectors in the city of Battle Creek to implement effective racial equity practices.

TI2016 Schedule

Thursday, January 21

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| 4:00-6:30pm | Registration |
| 6:30pm | **Opening Eucharist: Mass Reimaginings, featuring the work of Netsayi****Preaching: Bishop Michael Curry**“Mass Reimaginings” is a long-term commissioning project featuring six diverse composers who have been invited to offer their own 21st-century takes on the traditional Mass. The music of Zimbabwean singer-songwriter Netsayi will open the conference in a premier of her mass, performed by the Choir of Trinity Wall Street and new-music orchestra NOVUS NY, under the leadership of Julian Wachner. |
| 8:00pm | **Keynote Address: Michele Norris, "Eavesdropping on America’s Conversation on Race"** |

Friday, January 22

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| 9:00am | Gathering in song and prayer: Melanie DeMore |
| 9:30am | **Session 1: What Is Race, Anyway?**Science tells us that race has no basis in biology or genetics. So is race real? Surveys show how racist attitudes that were widespread 50 years ago are swiftly disappearing. So how can our society be racist? And why did it cause such a stir when a university offered a class on “The Problem of Whiteness”? TI2016’s distinguished speakers will bring a sharp focus on what we talk about when we talk about race. Format: 20-minute opening talk by Nicholas Kristof, to be followed by a conversation among speakers and then a Q&A with NYC-based participants and Partner Site participants Speakers include:* Nicholas Kristof
* Emilie Townes
* Eduardo Bonilla-Silva
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| 11:30am | Reflection group discussions |
| 12:45pm | Lunch |
| 2:00pm | Warm-up in song and prayer: Melanie DeMore **Session 2: A People’s History of Race**Even as we make strides toward overcoming racism in individuals, we need to take a closer look at the way our society’s systems developed to perpetuate inequality. Insightful performance and probing conversation will help to ensure that when we talk about the future, we are conscious of a past that still clings to the present. Format: 20-minute opening talk by Emilie Townes, to be followed by a conversation among speakers and then a Q&A with NYC-based participants and Partner Site participants Speakers include:* Emilie Townes
* Gary Dorrien
* Janine Tinsley-Roe
* T. James Kodera
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| 4:00-5:15pm | Reflection group discussions |

Saturday, January 23

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| 9:00am | Warm-up in song and prayer: Melanie DeMore |
| 9:30am | **Session 3: Soul Searching in a Culture of Control**In *The New Jim Crow*, “our prison system is a unique form of social control, much like slavery and Jim Crow, the systems it has replaced.” Churches are waking up in great numbers to the importance of challenging this systemic injustice. Format: 20-minute opening talk by Victor Rios, to be followed by a conversation among speakers and then a Q&A with NYC-based participants and Partner Site participants Speakers include:* Victor Rios
* Kelly Brown Douglas
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| 11:30am | Reflection group discussions |
| 12:45am | Lunch |
| 2:00pm | **Session 4: Listen for a Change**Featuring Anna Deavere Smith, "Race in America: Accepting Difference, Standing Shoulder to Shoulder" |
| 3:30pm | **Session 5: What We Can Do Together – Policies and Practices**Conversations about the places where progress is being made, relationships are deepening, and change is emerging. The goal is to help participants find inspiration and concrete ideas to implement. Speakers include:* The Rev. Dr. William Lupfer
* *Closing panel guests to be announced*

 Q&A with audience and Partner Site participants Closing |
| 4:30pm | Networking Reception |

Sunday, January 24

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| **Optional worship & education opportunities:** |
| 10:00am | Discovery class & webcast |
| 11:15am | Eucharist |