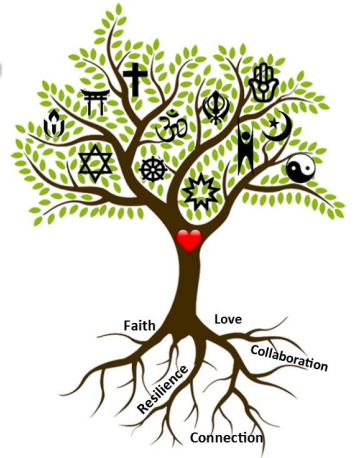


Convening at the Intersection of Trauma, Faith and Resilience to Connect, Learn,

Speaker Biographies



Dr. Iva Carruthers is General Secretary of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (SDPC), an interdenominational organization within the African American faith tradition focused on justice and equity issues. As founding CEO and a trustee of SDPC, she has steered the organization as a unique, influential and esteemed network of faith-based advocates and activists, clergy and lay. Former director of the Black Theology Project, Dr. Carruthers has a long history of teaching, engagement in community development initiatives and social justice ministry, fostering interdenominational and interfaith dialogue and leading study tours for the university and church throughout in the United States, Caribbean, South America and Africa.



Rabbi Menachem Cohen is the founding Rabbi of the Mitzit Jewish Community in Chicago and of Congregation B'nai haMidbar and the Black Rock JCC, the organized Jewish presence at Burning Man. For 11 years he has studied and practiced Jewish healing prayer with Rabbi Douglas Goldhamer, founder of Hebrew Seminary of the Deaf, where Menachem received ordination. He has also studied Jewish Shamanic Healing with Rabbi Gershon Winkler at the Walkingstick foundation and at Elat Chayyim. He has facilitated meditation groups across the country. His other interests include *halacha* and the paradigm shift and how our text, liturgy and calendar lead us through our psycho-spiritual journeys. Cohen is also a partner at AlleyCat comics in Andersonville. And, as a life-long game player, he is working on a prototype for a game that will teach empathy for those experiencing homelessness.



Father Chuck Dahm, O.P. is Archdiocesan Director of Domestic Violence Outreach, the Coordinator of Peace and Justice for Dominicans in North America, and Associate Pastor of St. Pius V parish in Chicago, a large Hispanic parish in the Pilsen neighborhood where he was pastor for 21 years. At St. Pius V parish, Fr. Chuck developed the largest parish-based domestic violence program in the United States. He is a frequent lecturer and preacher on domestic violence as well as a promoter of parish ministry to victims of domestic violence. He has preached about domestic violence at all weekend Masses in more than 50 parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago and developed ministry teams to raise awareness about domestic violence and respond to the needs of victims in more than 40 parishes.



Rev. Dr. Shirley Fleming serves as the Director of Faith Health Promotion in the Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships at UIC and Co-Director of Faith and Community Health Transformation. She is a long-time community educator, advocate for equity and social justice in health and human services. She has dedicated more than 30 years of her public health career to working locally and nationally as a community educator, provider, administrator and advocate to assure that all people, especially those who are disadvantaged, have the opportunity to develop their God-given gifts and talents. Dr. Fleming is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

Speaker Biographies



Min. Atty. Michelle Day is the founder and Executive Director of Nehemiah Trinity Rising, a faith-based not-for-profit agency that serves to educate and train regarding restorative justice and provides implementation strategies for restorative-justice practices in all community settings. She is a minister, attorney and certified mediator, with more than 25 years of experience in conflict transformation. Through Nehemiah, Ms. Day participated in drafting the restorative justice implementation plan for Chicago Public Schools, and led the implementation of RJ in several schools, including York Alternative High School, (serving youth in Cook County Jail). She has facilitated the implementation of restorative justice education and training for returning citizens, who in turn provide re-entry assistance to others. Through the Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative, Ms. Day is assisting in developing trauma-informed communities and congregations. Ms. Day is employed as Program Administrator for the Resource Section, Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Ms. Day serves as the Resource Section member of the citywide Community Restorative Justice HUBS leadership circle, which provides guidance and evaluation to RJ Hubs and assisted in the formation of the Community Restorative Justice Court.



Staycie Flint is a Chaplain at Advocate Children's Hospital, Oak Lawn. Staycie has 25+ years of experience in inner-city work, prison ministry, and spiritual formation. In the past five years, Staycie's work has transitioned into hospital chaplaincy with a special focus on pediatrics, trauma, and end-of-life concerns. She is committed to the work of resisting social inequities and building up the Divine's beloved community.



Cantor Rabbi Jury is a National Certified Counselor, a Certified Reciprocal Alcohol and Drug Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor. Cantor Rabbi Jury is a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains and National Association of Jewish Chaplains where he also serves on the national board.

Chaplain Rob spent five years as the Staff Chaplain at the Advocate Addiction Treatment Program before joining the Illinois Professionals Health Program-Behavioral Health as Chaplain and Pastoral Therapist. Chaplain Rob also provides spiritual care through his work with CJE Senior Life and Jewish Child and Family Services Chicago addiction services.

As a pastoral therapist he typically works with adolescents, adults, professionals, clergy, religious leaders, and people in recovery. His therapeutic specialties include recognizing and utilizing healthy aspects of spirituality and religious practice in one's therapy and recovery and in working with individuals who have experienced spiritual and religious wounds, spiritual and religious trauma, scrupulosity, and/or religious compulsions as they relate to recovery. Rob is the senior rabbi at Anshe Tikvah, a Jewish congregation in Buffalo Grove, where they are working to open the first Jewish licensed recovery home in Illinois.

Speaker Biographies



Dr. Fahad Khan is a psychologist with the Khalil Center. He is currently a student at Darul Qasim continuing his Arabic and Islamic Studies. He also serves on the Editorial Board for Muslim World Affairs, an online peer-reviewed journal. He has conducted research studies on help-seeking attitudes of Muslim Americans as well as the effects of Acculturation & Religiosity on Psychological Distress. The primary focus of his clinical training has been with children and adolescents suffering from serious mental illnesses. However, he has had a broad range of experiences dealing with individuals from all age groups and cultural backgrounds.



Rev. Dr. Kirsten Peachey is Director of Faith and Health Partnerships, Advocate Aurora Health Care and Co-Director, The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation. She works with faith communities to support their role as promoters of health and healing through training, consultation, resource linking and partnership development. Kirsten has a particular interest in how people come together to make change and how we apply our faith beliefs and practices to create the kind of world we all hope for. Kirsten is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She has worked as a social worker, hospital chaplain, and pastoral counselor.



Dr. Hema Pokharna is trained as a Biochemist and worked as a researcher at the University of Chicago for 20 years. She also taught courses on spirituality and Medicine at the University of Chicago. Independently she is the director of Journeys of Life: A Program to promote Health, Wholeness and Dis-ease prevention. Born and raised in India, she received much of her religious instruction from Jain monks and nuns who emphasized inner peace and self-discipline. In United states she also received extensive training at the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland, the Center for Nonviolent Communication, and the Focusing Institute. Hema's gift is in helping leaders unlock their true potential and integrate their inner wisdom and spirit into their daily lives. As a resilience and vitality coach, Hema works with leaders and their teams to develop a deeper understanding of human needs and use that knowledge to minimize hostilities and build authentic connections and embrace a new way of being and experience greater freedom and joy.

Speaker Biographies



Rev. Lis Valle-Ruiz, PhD is Assistant Professor of Homiletics at McCormick Theological Seminary. Rev. Valle has served as Professor of Theology and Scripture at the Lux Summer Youth Institute in Monmouth College, IL, has provided worship and chaplaincy leadership in interdenominational gatherings, and possesses a background as both an actor and a lawyer. She has been a fellow with the Forum for Theological Exploration and the Hispanic Theological Initiative/Consortium. Lis has been an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) since 2013.



Apostle Dr. Carolyn Vessel is the founder and CEO/President of I AM ABLE Center for Family Development, a faith-based trauma-informed care agency that provides services from birth to the end-of-life. TR4IM (Trauma Response Intervention Movement) is one of the innovative community/collective-impact models of I AM ABLE. TR4IM provides clinical, educational, social, and economic support to underserved families who may experience trauma in any of its forms. The first eight-block sector is located in North Lawndale on 16th to Ogden, and Central Park to Ridgeway.



Rev. Dr. Barbara Wilson currently serves as the Director of Collaboration and Community Partnerships for the Presbytery of Chicago, Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.). She is a catalyst for healthy relationship building, leader equipping, and community engagement to promote enhancing vitality and strengthening mission for community development and redevelopment. She is ordained as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) and continues to serve on the ministerial staff of a Chicago area congregation. She has served for over 25 years as a staff minister, senior pastor, and local, regional and international denominational positions, appointed and elected. Barbara is an Adjunct Professor for the Doctor of Ministry degree programs at McCormick Theological and Bexley Seabury Seminaries. She is a trained leadership coach through the International Coach Federation.

A special thank you to our guest speakers for sharing your wisdom with us today!

