



Minnesota Council of Churches presents

Minnesota's Racial Legacy

Finally Telling the Truth

September 24-25th, 2021

Plymouth Congregational Church

1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403



Rev. Dr. Curtiss DeYoung, Ed.D.

Welcome!

The Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) welcomes you to the launch of our truth telling work in Minnesota. This inaugural event is part of our commitment to at least a ten year racial justice initiative of truth telling, education, and reparations. We hope this effort will contribute to repairing the harm that has occurred in Minnesota because of racism. We will examine the history of racism in Indigenous and Black communities and the current manifestation that has been documented with Minnesota having some of the most dramatic racial disparities in the nation between whites and communities of color. We believe that truth telling offers us a key for restoring our humanity (John 8:32). I invite you to be courageous in engaging with us in this important truth telling work during these next two days ... and in the months and years to come.

Rev. Curtiss Paul DeYoung. Ed.D.

Chief Executive Officer



Program Schedule

Friday, September 24

6:30pm – 7:00pm Registration; Smudging; Choral song

7:00pm – 8:30pm **Welcome -**

Rev. DeWayne Davis

Presiding Elder Stacey L. Smith

Choral Response

Introduction of Speaker

Keynote: Christine Diindiisi McCleave, M.A.

8:30pm – 9:00pm Wrap-Up and Instructions for Saturday

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Saturday, September 25

8:30am – 9:00am Registration; Smudging; Choral song; continental breakfast

9:00am – 10:30am **Welcome -**

Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart

Choral Response

Introduction of Speaker

Keynote: Dr. Yohuru Williams, “Good words will not give me back my children: Truth Telling and Historical Recovery as the foundations for racial justice”

10:30am – 10:45am **Break**

10:45am – 12:15pm **Panel Discussion:**

Anthony Galloway Nevada Littlewolf Rev. Kelly Sherman-Conroy

12:15pm – 12:30pm **Break**

12:30pm – 1:00pm **Next Steps and Wrap-Up:** Rev. Pamela Ngunjiri and Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs





CHRISTINE DIINDIISI MCCLEAVE, M.A.

Christine Diindiisi McCleave (she/her), Chief Executive Officer, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, is an enrolled citizen of Turtle Mountain Ojibwe Nation and a leader and an activist for Indigenous Rights advocating for truth, justice, and healing for the genocidal policy of U.S. Indian Boarding Schools. Diindiisi McCleave was the first employee hired to work at NABS in 2015 and has spent the last several years building capacity, programming, and operations. Diindiisi McCleave has a master of arts in leadership and a bachelor of science in communication studies. She conducted her thesis research on the spectrum of spiritual practices between traditional Native American spirituality and Christianity and the legacy of the boarding schools on spiritual activities and Indian Activism today.

Diindiisi McCleave has dedicated her life and work to pursuing truth and healing for the Indigenous survivors of historical trauma at the hands of colonialism and settler-states. She is one of the primary investigators for the “Child Removal in Native Communities: An Anonymous Survey” currently being conducted with the University of Minnesota, and has published several scholarly articles, including one titled, “The Catholic Church and U.S. Indian Boarding Schools: What Colonial Empire Has to do With God” in the *Journal of the West: Catholic Indian Mission Schools: Colonial or Decolonized spaces*

in the American West (Vol. 59, No. 3, Summer 2020). In 2020, Diindiisi McCleave was instrumental in writing H.R.8420 - Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy Act—the first bill ever introduced to for a commission addressing boarding school policy in the U.S. She is also a member of the Truth and Reconciliation working group for the City of Minneapolis.

McCleave is an at-large board member of the Minnesota Council of Churches



DR. YOHURU WILLIAMS, PH.D.

Dr. Yohuru Williams is Distinguished University Chair and Professor of History and Founding Director of the Racial Justice Initiative at the University of St. Thomas. He received his Ph.D. from Howard University in 1998. Dr. Williams is the author of:

- *Black Politics/White Power: Civil Rights Black Power and Black Panthers in New Haven* (Blackwell, 2006)
- *Rethinking the Black Freedom Movement* (Routledge, 2015)
- *Teaching beyond the Textbook: Six Investigative Strategies* (Corwin Press, 2008)

He is also the editor of several books, and has served as an advisor on the popular civil rights reader *Putting the Movement Back into teaching Civil Rights*.

Dr. Williams has appeared on a variety of local and national radio and television programs most notably ABC, CNN, MSNBC, Aljazeera America, BET, CSPAN, EBRU Today, Fox Business News, Fresh Outlook, Huff Post Live, and NPR. He was featured in the Ken Burns PBS Documentary “Jackie Robinson” and the Stanley Nelson PBS Documentary “The Black Panthers.” He is also one of the hosts of the History Channel’s Web show “Sound Smart.” A regular political commentator on the Cliff Kelly Show on WVON, Chicago, Dr. Williams also blogs regularly for the Huffington Post and is a contributor to the Progressive Magazine.

Dr. Williams’ scholarly articles have appeared in the American Bar Association’s insights on Law and Society, The Organization of American Historians Magazine of History, The Black Scholar, The Journal of Black Studies, Pennsylvania History, Delaware History, the Journal of Civil and Human Rights and the Black History Bulletin. Dr. Williams is also presently finishing a new book entitled in the Shadow of the Whipping Post: Lynching, Capital Punishment, and Jim Crow Justice in Delaware 1865-1965 under contract with Cambridge University Press.



Presiding Elder Stacey L. Smith

Rev. Stacey L. Smith is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She holds a B.A. degree in Organizational Leadership and Development from Bethel University, in St. Paul, Minnesota, and earned a Master of Divinity degree

from United Theological Seminary, in New Brighton, Minnesota. Rev. Smith served as a successful business leader in Corporate America for 25 years leading diverse groups in Health, Human Resources, and Business Operations.

Rev. Smith previously pastored St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church in Duluth, Minnesota for 4 years, and in November of 2013, she was appointed as the 37th pastor of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, in St. Paul, MN, where she is currently serving. Rev. Smith has traveled internationally on behalf of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and is known as a National and International speaker.

On September 30, 2017, at the 135 Session of the Chicago Annual Conference, Bishop John Franklin White, appointed Rev. Smith to become the Presiding Elder of the St. Paul Minneapolis District of the Chicago Annual Conference. Rev. Smith is the first female to be appointed as Presiding Elder in the Chicago Conference. In 2018, Rev. Smith was also appointed as the Presiding Elder of the Canadian Conference of the Chicago Annual Conference. Rev. Smith also sits on the Board of Trustees for United Theological Seminary and the Minnesota Council of Churches as the current Board President. Rev. Smith is a woman of prayer, and vision, and a leader committed to following the will and teachings of Jesus Christ.



Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart

Elona Street-Stewart is a descendant of the Delaware Nanticoke Tribe and is the first Native American to serve as a Moderator of the PC (USA) as well as the first to serve as a synod executive in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A ruling elder and a longtime staff member of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, she has served in the synod since 1994. Before taking the position, she had been the synod's associate for racial ethnic ministries and community empowerment.

An active church leader at the national level since 1980, Street-Stewart chaired the Council on Church and Race and the Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns. She was a member of the Relocation Committee of General Assembly Agencies following reunion of the northern and southern branches of the PC (USA). Street-Stewart also received the denomination's Women of Faith Award during the 219th General Assembly (2010).

Other church-wide responsibilities include the national Self Development of People Committee, Presbyterian Women, Third World Women, General Assembly Committee on Representation, Native American Consulting Committee, and the General Assembly Nominating Committee. She also served on the executive committee of the Minnesota Council of Churches and with the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches' Department of Indian Work.

In 2001 Street-Stewart became the first Native American elected to serve on the board of an urban school district in Minnesota. Reelected in 2005 and 2009, she served as chair of the board and as a district director on the Minnesota School Boards Association, the Council of the Great City Schools, and the National School Board Associations Council on Urban Boards of Education.

Street-Stewart has led the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, the American Indian Family Center, the national American Indian Alaska Native School Board Caucus, the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative, and The Saint Paul Foundation's antiracism advisory committee.

Born in Philadelphia, Street-Stewart was an Upward Bound student at Swarthmore (Pennsylvania) College and received her bachelor's degree from Occidental College in Los Angeles.

Street-Stewart was elected, alongside the Reverend Gregory Bentley, as Co-Moderator of the 224th General Assembly (2020) during the denomination's first ever online assembly



Statement of Commitment:



As we enter into this space,

let us remember that we have come to hear, to
listen, and to learn.

As we encounter someone's story, let us
remember that all stories come to us as gifts, and
should be received with gratitude.

In story we make human connection, and in that
connection we are transformed.

And so we enter committing to listen deeply and
receive gratefully.

Minnesota Racial Legacy: Finally Telling the Truth



Anthony Galloway, B.A.

Anthony Galloway holds a BA degree in Ethnic Studies from Metropolitan State University, and is a Senior Partner at Dendros Group, a firm dedicated to cultural change in organizations towards equity. He is also the Executive Director of the ARTS Us Center for the African Diaspora and a founding member of the Award winning "Counterstories" radio show and "Bearing Witness with Anthony and Georgia" covering the uprising in Minnesota.

He is currently a licentiate in his 2nd year on track to complete his Masters of Divinity Degree at United Theological Seminary. In addition to supporting his wife and two children, Anthony is currently serving on the ministerial staff of St. James AME Church under Presiding Elder Stacey L. Smith where he works with music and media ministries as well as racial justice issues in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota.



Nevada Littlewolf

Nevada Littlewolf is the Page Amendment Campaign Manager & Executive Director. She is also the co-founder and President of Seven Teachings, an Indigenous and Black-led business that designs new models of policy, practice, systems change and solutions. Nevada served as Minnesota's state Political Director for the 2020 Biden Presidential Campaign. She brings years of experience having worked across sectors of politics, community, government, philanthropy, non-profit, and business. Nevada served on the Virginia City Council for ten years from 2008-2018. Nevada is a citizen of Leech Lake Nation and has two children. Nevada is a trustee and Chair of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, and on the governing boards of ClearWay MN, Urban Debate League, Oldenburg Arts and Cultural Community, and Regeneration, Equity and Justice.



Rev. Kelly Sherman-Conroy

I Am **Kelly**. My Lakota name is Mato Waste Winyan (Good Bear Woman). I am a proud member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe currently based in Minnesota, USA. I am a Native American Theologian who walks with people of all cultures. I dedicate my time exploring with people around the world with the intersections of identity, personal narratives, faith, and healing through an Indigenous lens.

I'm an adventurer who honors my Indigenous ancestors by inspiring people to make a difference. Intrigued by theology, traveling, photography, music, advocacy, writing, art, armchair philosophy, fabulous food, and even better conversations (*enjoying the beauty of learning and speaking diverse languages*).

Seeking to be inspired, to envision the unlikely, to work hard for things that are worth it, and to be surrounded by those who bring out the best in me.

Sherman-Conroy is an at-large board member of the Minnesota Council of Churches.

Ebony Adedayo

Ebony Adedayo is the founder of the Aya Collective, a space that centers the expertise and experience of Black women. In this work, she has gathered Black women around writing, education and training, and spiritual practice. In 2020, Ebony launched the Aya Collective's first online writing cohort, *Fragmented and Whole*, as well as hosted a summer teach-in series, *Talking Back* which featured four Black women scholars and thinkers sharing their work as it pertains to identity, politics, culture, and spirituality. In 2021, Ebony hosted the Aya Collective's #BlackWomenWriting series featuring 6 Black women authors with recently published work.

Ebony works for the City of Minneapolis' Division of Race and Equity as program manager for Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST). In addition to curriculum and program development for ReCAST, Ebony has also managed the City's work around Truth and Reconciliation. Ebony is also a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota in Curriculum and Instruction, with minors in Culture and Teaching and African American and African Studies. She holds a Master of Arts in Global and Contextual Studies from Bethel Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies from North Central University, and was a licensed minister with the Assemblies of God from 2012 - 2019. She served as a missions director from 2010 - 2012 and a parish pastor between 2015 - 2019. She is the author of the recently published books, *The Gospel According to a Black Woman* and *Incomplete Stories*.



Dr. Darlene Fry

Dr. Fry is a native of Chicago, Illinois. She has worked with young adults in Student Affairs on campuses in Illinois, Wisconsin, California, Missouri and Minnesota before moving to Saint Paul to pursue her doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Saint Thomas. Her passion then became preparation of high school students for post-secondary success. As a first-generation college student herself, she was fully committed to ensuring the success of other first-generation students. In her school district experience she saw the devastating outcome for kids that had been in out of home placements. As an adoptive mother, she understood that those same outcomes could have occurred for her own child.

Irreducible Grace Foundation (IGF) was born in 2012 out of the need to support youth from foster care. For three years the organization co-created with youth, a safe space for fostering the voice of youth of color to express themselves and support one another. A leadership team was developed to conduct participatory “Fostering Voice” workshops with youth and youth serving agencies. In 2015 IGF focused their work on helping youth heal from trauma, as so many of our youth and workshop participants needed this support. IGF is the little organization with the funny name that is youth-influenced in creating safe spaces and healing opportunities for youth of color. The leadership team has provided workshops and other healing opportunities for over 25,000 participants.

Dr. Fry is the Executive Director and Founder of Irreducible Grace Foundation. She has completed two levels of training with the Center for Mind, Body Medicine to assist in dealing with individual/community trauma and healing.

MCC STAFF



Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, M.A.

Jim Bear Jacobs was born in St. Paul, he is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, an American Indian tribe located in central Wisconsin. He has degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology and has served various churches as youth minister, adult Christian educator, and director of Men's Ministries. Presently he is parish associate at Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church. He is a cultural facilitator in the Twin Cities and works to raise the public's awareness of American Indian causes and injustices. He is a Co-Director of Racial Justice for the Minnesota Council of Churches. Additionally he is the creator and director of "Healing Minnesota Stories," a program of the Minnesota Council of Churches dedicated to ensuring that the Native American voice is heard in areas where it has long been ignored.



Rev. Pamela Ngunjiri, M.T.S., M.S.W.

Rev. Pamela Ngunjiri (pronounced go jeri) is a transplant to Minnesota by way of Texas, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska and Portland, Oregon. Her family moved as the military dictated.

She is currently writing her dissertation to complete the requirements for the Doctor of Ministry in Church Leadership, with an emphasis on Global and Contextual Leadership, at Bethel University. The subject matter of the dissertation is white supremacy and its entanglement with the Christian Church. She is currently employed as a Co-Director of Racial Justice at the Minnesota Council of Churches. Ngunjiri is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the AME Church and is currently pastoring St. Mark AME Church in Duluth, MN.

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