

Seeking Justice: IN THE CITY, IN THE CHURCH

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & FACILITATOR BIOS

9:30am – 10:45am: Workshops on Justice in the City

Indigenous Justice in Ottawa

Facilitated by Jennifer Valiquette and Denise Anne Boissoneau

This workshop will look at the history, barriers, successes, and goals of Indigenous justice in Ottawa.

Jennifer Valiquette (she/her) draws on her experience as is the Odawa Justice Programs Supervisor and coordinator of the Odawa Community Reintegration and Indigenous Criminal Courtwork Program.

Denise Anne Boissoneau (she/her), Anishinaabe Kwe Ojibwe, Manitoulin Island, is the Odawa Traditional Helper for the Indigenous Justice Team. She has a depth of knowledge in actively engaging settler communities and creating cultural awareness relating to our Canadian reconciliation.

Holistic Care for the 2SLGBTQ+ Community

Facilitated by Robert Alsberry and Bryan Quiñones

Accessing the healthcare system can be a difficult and negative experience for many 2SLGBTQ+ folks. At the same time, 2SLGBTQ+ folks face barriers that impact their health including stigma, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and others. Robert and Bryan will talk about how spiritual health is linked to a person's holistic health, highlight barriers 2SLGBTQ+ people face in healthcare and religion, and lead discussion on how to effectively address and reduce those barriers.

Robert Alsberry (he/him) presently works at MAX Ottawa as the Communications and Outreach Coordinator where he co-facilitates Keeping it 100, a Black Queer male discussion group. He brings 12+ years of nursing experience, a strong passion for health equity, and lived experience as a Black, queer male to his role.

Bryan Quiñones (they/them) identifies as a “bakla” or “bayot,” and also as a young nonbinary queer Filipino immigrant. Bryan immigrated to Ottawa, Canada from Cebu, Philippines in 2013. Bryan is a champion and a supporter of local community-based, grassroots-level organizing. Bryan is loud and vivacious. They have a precious positive energy that will definitely light up the room. Bryan advocates for social equity and values anti-oppression in their social justice work. On their free time, Bryan enjoys criticizing how political institutions have prioritized white heterosexual cis men, and in turn, have failed black, indigenous, people of colour, 2SLGBTQ+ folks, immigrants, students, people with disabilities, low-income people, women, and many other marginalized folks.

Journey with Me - Refugee Stories that Change Lives

Facilitated by Cindy Stover and Stephen Kaduuli

This workshop gives participants a sense of what it's like to walk in a refugee's shoes, to help them better live into the biblical call to "welcome the stranger." Participants will also receive new myth-busting resources from World Renew, the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue, and Citizens for Public Justice and learn about actions and activities to support congregations on this journey.

Cindy Stover (she/her) is the Justice Mobilizer for the Christian Reformed Church in Canada. Having grown up in Northern Ontario, she's a country girl at heart, but also loves her close-knit neighbourhood in downtown Hamilton, where she is a part of Eucharist Church, a multi-denominational worshipping community that seeks to find creative ways to practice hospitality in their city. Cindy is interested in seeing people realize God's call to enact justice and mercy in every area of our lives, from how we shop, to how we talk to our neighbours, to how our churches respond to the most vulnerable.

Stephen Kaduuli (he/him) is the Refugee Rights Policy Analyst at CPJ. He has worked as a civil servant, forced migration researcher and in the not for profit sector. Stephen has a Masters in Demography from the Australian National University; a BA in Social Work from Makerere University and a Diploma in Paralegal studies from Herzing College Toronto. He also has certificates in refugee and forced migration studies from Oxford and York universities. Stephen is very passionate about public justice and has written and published research papers pertaining to public justice issues including refugee and forced migration issues, governance and poverty reduction.

11:00am – 12:30pm: Keynote

Racism, White Privilege and the Invention of the Myth of 'Race'

Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey

In this presentation, Rev. Bailey will explore how, when, and why the notion of 'race' was invented. He will show how the uncritical acceptance and presumption of a racial hierarchy distorts the practice of justice, limits theological reflection, and ignores or minimizes the indispensable role that gentiles, outcasts, and diverse peoples in the Bible play in God's salvation history. All of this has significant implications for the way we conduct worship, preaching, counselling, witness, Bible Study, faith formation as well as missional engagement and the practice of justice.

Dr. Bailey (he/him) is the coordinating minister of Parkdale United. In the way of Jesus and by the grace of God, he is committed to deploying his gifts and his varied academic, vocational and cultural background to inspire faith, engagement and the advancement of the common good in his own neighbourhood and beyond. With an academic background in social work, theology, philosophy and ethics, and experience teaching at a university level, as well as living and serving in countries like Barbados, Kenya, Jamaica and the USA, Anthony seeks to 'provoke' communal, individual, and societal transformation. He has been recognized for his work in anti-racism and diversity training, community development in a developing country setting, in racial justice and reconciliation, and in building intercultural competence in the contexts of schools, churches and government agencies and departments. He and his congregation are passionate about and committed to what the Spirit and the gospel can do in us, among us and through us for the blessing of this world that God so loves.

1:30pm – 2:45pm: Workshops on Justice in the Church

Racism in Canada?

Facilitated by Bernadette Arthur

Take an interactive trip down memory lane to (re)discover Canada's relationship to racism. We will discuss how history shapes the present and discuss generative ways for churches to participate in the ministry of racial justice, healing and reconciliation. This is an introductory workshop that will allow us to briefly survey the origins and effects of systemic racism and colonialism. Co-participants will be offered a suggested resource list to assist them on their learning journey.

Bernadette Arthur (she/her) is a lover of Jesus Christ and as a true Enneagram 1 is a reformer at heart and pursuer of justice and truth. Bernadette was born and raised on Haudenounasaunee and Anishnabeg territory in an Afro-Caribbean home where some of her earliest memories are of sliding down church hallways with stockinged feet and daily 6am family worship times. For the last 2 decades, Bernadette has served and ministered to the Body of Christ as it's expressed in the Mennonite, Baptist, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist and more recently the CRCNA denomination. Bernadette trains, facilitates and consults in the areas of race equity and asset-based community development. Bernadette is gifted in designing and facilitating decolonized learning events that offer "safe" space to listen, interrogate, unpack, explore, create and heal. She has designed workshops that intersect faith, healing and justice in as close as Hamilton, ON and in as far as Johannesburg, South Africa. Bernadette is also the owner and Chief Experience Officer of a new Hamilton based social purpose business called A Shared Table (www.asharedtable.ca).

Disability & Faith

Facilitated by Jasmine Duckworth

This workshop will look back at the history of disability as well as changes that have been made in both society and the church in order to understand the current status of disability. Participants will be invited to look forward towards what is on the horizon in terms of theology of disability and the practice of building inclusive communities of faith.

Jasmine Duckworth (she/her) has served people who experience disability for 15 years at Christian Horizons where she works to nurture communities of belonging for people with disabilities. As part of her role as Community Development Manager she is a member the organizing committee for the Belong: Strangers No More conference. *Jasmine is disabled herself and brings that personal experience to her work in supporting others with disabilities.*

Within the System: Advocacy Tips for Justice Seekers

Facilitated by Serisha Iyar

This workshop will explain how the colonial systems of government operate. Explore where you hold power within the system by breaking down the privileges and access Christians are afforded in Canada and learn tips for how to use these tools to seek justice.

Serisha Iyar (she/her) is the Founder and Executive Director of Leading in Colour, an organization dedicated to providing young racialized activists with the necessary tools to conduct their advocacy. She is passionate about politics with experience in government relations, public policy and lobbying. Serisha graduated from McGill University in 2017 where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in World Religions.