

VALUES IN ACTION

A TRINITY INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

Michael Curry has served as the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church since 2015, the first African-American to do so. He has been extensively involved in preaching missions, Crisis Control Ministry, the Absalom Jones initiative, the brokering of millions of dollars of investment in inner city neighborhoods, and the founding of day camps, day cares, and educational centers for children and families. In addition, Bishop Curry inspired a \$2.5-million restoration of St. James Episcopal Church in Baltimore after a 1993 fire. Before his election as presiding bishop, he served the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina for 15 years, where was continued to be active in issues of social justice, speaking out on immigration policy and marriage equality. He has received honorary degrees from Sewanne and Yale.



Michelle Alexander

Michelle Alexander is a highly acclaimed civil rights lawyer, advocate, legal scholar, and best-selling author. Her award-winning book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, helped to spark a national debate about the crisis of mass incarceration in the United States and inspired racial justice organizing and advocacy efforts nationwide. Alexander has taught at a number of universities, including Stanford Law School, where she was an associate professor of law and directed the Civil Rights Clinics. Currently, she is a visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City where she is exploring the moral and spiritual dimensions of mass incarceration, and working with other committed souls on multi-media projects aimed at transforming public consciousness with respect to race, justice and democracy in America.



Pádraig Ó Tuama

Pádraig Ó Tuama is a poet and theologian based in Belfast. He teaches religion, storytelling, and conflict transformation and is a popular speaker at conferences and festivals in Ireland, the U.K., the U.S., and Australia. He is the leader of the Corrymeela Community, a Christian witness to peace in Northern Ireland, and is the author of two books of poetry: *Readings from the Book of Exile* and *Sorry for Your Troubles*. His prose book of narrative theology, *In the Shelter: Finding a home in the world*, was published in 2015 and described as "A profound, fluent, and searching spiritual autobiography...seasoned by resilience and reality" by the Church Times.



The Rev. Elizabeth M. Edman

Liz Edman is an Episcopal priest, political strategist, and writer. She is author of *Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity* (Beacon Press, 2016). She has lived and worked on the front lines of the most salient contemporary issues where religion meets sexuality, serving as an inner-city hospital chaplain to people with HIV/AIDS from 1989 to 1995 and helping craft political and communications strategies for marriage equality efforts. In 2017, she partnered with Parity to create *Glitter+Ash Wednesday*, a project to increase the visibility of progressive, queer-positive Christians and to explore Christian liturgy through a queer lens. Her writing has been featured in *Salon.com*, *The Advocate*, *LGBT Nation*, and *Religion News Service*. She lives in New York.



Jose Antonio Vargas

Jose Antonio Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and filmmaker whose work centers on the changing American identity. He is the founder of *Define American*, a non-profit media and culture organization that seeks to elevate the conversation around immigration and citizenship in America. In June 2011, the *New York Times Magazine* published a groundbreaking essay he wrote in which he revealed and chronicled his life in America as an undocumented immigrant. He then wrote, produced, and directed *Documented*, a documentary feature film on his undocumented experience. He has written for daily newspapers and national magazines, and was part of the team that won a Pulitzer Prize for covering the Virginia Tech massacre. He also directed the Emmy-nominated *White People*, which aired on MTV in 2015. In 2016, Vargas launched *#EmergingUS*, a multimedia news platform he conceived focusing on race, immigration, and the complexities of multiculturalism.



Deirdre Good

Deirdre Good, Theologian in Residence at Trinity Church Wall Street, formerly served as Academic Dean at General Theological Seminary and Interim Associate Academic Dean at Drew Theological School. She was Professor of New Testament at General from 1986-2015, and prior to that served as the chair of the religion department at Agnes Scott College, as well as on the religious studies faculty at Valparaiso University. She is the author of many scholarly articles and the author and co-author of numerous books, including *Jesus' Family Values*, *Jesus the Meek King*, and *Mariam, the Magdalen, and the Mother*. Her latest book, co-edited with Katie Day, *Courage Beyond Fear: Strategies of Formation & Resistance*, (to be published in 2018) focuses on upheavals in theological education particularly human costs and theological issues.



Adnan A. Zulfiqar

Adnan A. Zulfiqar is a legal scholar, educator, and strategist working on issues of criminal justice, Islamic law, and foreign policy. He is Assistant Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School, a Truman National Security Fellow and a member of the Urbane Development Collaborative. His scholarly writing focuses on revolution, war, and criminality, but he regularly provides media commentary on domestic and foreign policy matters. Zulfiqar

previously served as the first Interfaith Fellow and Muslim Chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania and on the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia. In 2005, he co-founded, along with his sister, Banja Umodzi (“One Family”), a humanitarian organization focused on relief aid and reconstruction, as well as orphan care in the cities and rural areas of Malawi (Africa).



Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss, Ph. D.

Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss, Ph. D. is Associate Professor of Bible at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and was recently appointed as the incoming Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost. She served as Campaign Coordinator for “American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days. 100 Letters” and Associate Editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press, 2008). She is the author of *Figurative Language in Biblical Prose Narrative: Metaphor in the Book of Samuel* (Brill, 2006) and

numerous articles on biblical poetry, metaphor, and other topics. Her current research focuses on metaphors for God in the Bible.



The Rev. Winnie Varghese

The Rev. Winnie Varghese is the Priest and Director of Justice and Reconciliation at Trinity Church Wall Street. She oversees the domestic grants program, direct service, and outreach from Trinity Church, and programming in areas of service and justice for Trinity Church. Before coming to Trinity, the Rev. Varghese was the rector of St. Mark's in the Bowery, a historic Episcopal congregation in New York City. From 2003-2009, she served as the Episcopal Chaplain at Columbia University. She is a blogger for the

Huffington Post; author of *Church Meets World*; editor of *What We Shall Become*; and author of numerous articles and chapters on social justice and the church.



The Rev. Dr. Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones

The Rev. Dr. Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones is the Priest & Director for Core Values & Latin America & Caribbean Relations at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City. In this role, he oversees the continued integration of Trinity's core values into the life of the community, as well as develops ministry partnerships with communities that share Trinity's values in Latin America. Fr. Mark has a wide range of experience, including 14 years of Jesuit training and work as a missionary in Belize, Brazil, Guyana, and

Mexico, that trained him well for the multicultural richness of the city, and helped prepare him for working well with groups and people of various cultural backgrounds. He is an award-winning author; his most recent book is *The Rastafari Book of Common Prayer*.