FDH MINISTRIES

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER
2019 CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 10TH & 11TH
DR. FREDERICK D. HAYNES, III

REVIVING THE CHURCH,
RECLAIMING OUR COMMUNITIES,
REPARATIONS FOR OUR COME UP
2019 MOVEMENT - BUILDING
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
Speaking Truth to Power: Movement-Building for Social Justice

The United States of America is in the midst of a “cold civil war.” White supremacy has experienced a revival, often in the name of religion. Xenophobic policies have resulted in children being ripped from their families at the southern border. The White House has given signals that have been received as “marching orders” by white terrorists, and lives have perished in mass shootings. The Trojan horse of gentrification is displacing black communities in the name of development. Gun violence and mass shootings have broken hearts and homes, while politicians piously offer “thoughts and prayers” without policy change. Environmental racism aborts the life expectancy of black, brown, and impoverished communities. In the face of these moral atrocities and vicious oppression, this American empire sinks into the chaotic waters of emboldened racism, hateful othering, predatory patriarchy, and unvarnished greed.

**Speaking Truth to Power 2019** will equip and empower church and community leaders and stakeholders to ignite a spirit of revival for churches; fight the hostile takeover of gentrification with strategic plans for organizing and developing our communities and educating our people to join the fight for reparations and justice. We are in a state of emergency! I invite you to join us for this time of conversation and strategizing with some of the best minds in the nation. We can have a spiritual revival that will result in a social revolution. Jesus said we are the “light of the world.” Join us as we convene to use our light to extinguish the darkness. God has “called us for such a time as this.”
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

8:00 am - 10:00 am
Onsite Registration & Sign-In

10:00 am - 10:30 am
Conference Welcome

10:30 am - 11:45 am
Opening Plenary
Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Lunch

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Break Out Session #1

Mercedes Fulbright
Public Policy and Community Organizing

Jamacia Johnson & Toska Medlock
States of Black- An Interactive Social Justice Art Experience

Minister Danielle Ayers
Structuring the Local Church for Doing Justice Work in the Local Community

Rev. Damien Durr
Overcoming the Accommodation

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm
Breakout Session #2

Mercedes Fulbright
Public Policy and Community Organizing

Min. Danielle Ayers
Structuring the Local Church for Doing Justice Work in the Local Community

Rev. Damien Durr
Overcoming the Accommodation

Rev. David Malcolm McGruder
Equipping Youth for Social Justice Work

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Plenary Session

Rev. Jeffrey Johnson, Sr.
The Rock Initiative Expansion

Worship Service 7:00 pm
Relay Preaching
Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III
Min. Danielle Ayers
Rev. Damien Durr
Rev. David McGruder
Reviving the Church, Reclaiming our Communities, Reparations for our Come Up

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

8:00 am - 9:00 am
Onsite Registration

9:00 am - 10:15 am
Morning Plenary

Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr.  
The Big Prophetic Idea and How to Make It Happen

10:30 am - 11:45 am
Morning Plenary Session

Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq.  
mobilizing Our Churches for the 2020 Census

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
LUNCH

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Breakout Session #3

Rev. Dr. Keri Day  
Reparations as Christian Witness: The Role of Churches

Jamacia Johnson & Toska Medlock  
States of Black- An Interactive Social Justice Art Experience

Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris  
Earth Honoring Faiths and Ecological Reparations

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm
Breakout Session #4

Rev. Dr. Keri Day  
Reparations as Christian Witness: The Role of Churches

Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris  
Fighting for Environmental Justice

Abeni Jewel Haynes  
West Wall Street-Building and Sustaining the Black Business Community through the Black Church

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Closing Plenary Session

Rev. Dr. Kevin W. Cosby  
The Black Church and the Fight for Reparations

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Special Reception

Speaking Truth to Power: A Social Justice Art Experience
Dr. Haynes is an Author, Community Activist, and foremost a Pastor. For 36 years, Dr. Haynes has served as a visionary and innovative Senior Pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. Under his servant leadership, the ministry and membership has grown from less than 100 members in 1983 to over 12,000.

Dr. Haynes serves in numerous leadership capacities for organizations championing social change. He is the Co-Chair of the Board of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference and serves on the Board of Directors of the National Action Network and Conference of National Black Churches. Dr. Haynes is a Trustee of Paul Quinn College, where he has also served as an Adjunct Professor.

Dr. Haynes is a committed community activist who has formed alliances with local community leaders and Dallas city officials to fight domestic violence and poverty by organizing a Faith Summit on Poverty. He has worked with the Center for Responsible Lending to fight predatory lending in Texas and across the nation. Dr. Haynes is frequently invited to the White House to address issues ranging from the economy to voting and civil rights. He was publicly applauded by President Barack Obama for the THR!VE Intern and Leadership Program that began in the summer of 2014, employing nearly 100 young black males between the ages of 16-19.

Possessing a commitment to education, he has a Bachelor’s Degree from Bishop College, a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation where he studied at Christ Church, University of Oxford. His dissertation reflects his commitment to faith-based social activism, “To Turn The World Upside Down: Church Growth In A Church Committed to Social Justice.” Dr. Haynes is married to Debra Peek-Haynes, founder and president of Quorum Commercial, a Dallas commercial real estate firm. They are the parents of one beautiful daughter, Abeni Jewel Haynes.
Jennifer Jones Austin has more than 20 years of leadership, management, and advocacy experience working for the advancement of underserved children, individuals, and families.

Prior to joining FPWA, Ms. Jones Austin served as Senior Vice President of United Way of New York City, the City of New York’s first Family Services Coordinator appointed by Mayor Bloomberg, Deputy Commissioner for the City’s Administration for Children’s Services, Civil Rights Deputy Bureau Chief for New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, and Vice President for LearnNow/Edison Schools Inc.

Throughout her career, Jennifer Jones Austin has chaired and served on several influential boards, commissions, and task forces. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio appointed her as Co-Chair of his mayoral transition in 2013, a leader of his UPK Workgroup that designed the full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten Initiative, and a leader of his Jobs for New Yorkers Task Force. She was the Co-Chair of the NYC Department of Education Capacity Framework Advisory and a member of the PlaNYC Advisory Board. She served as Chair of the City of New York Procurement Policy Board and Co-Chair of the New York State Supermarket Commission. Presently, Ms. Jones Austin serves as Board Member and Spokesperson for The National Marrow Donor Program, and Board Member of the NYC Board of Correction, the New York Blood Center, and the Fund for Public Housing. She also serves on the Human Services Council. Previous Board service includes the New York Women’s Bar Association Foundation, Children for Children, Citizens’ Committee for Children, the Icla da Silva Foundation, and the Bethany Baptist Church Child Development Center.

Ms. Jones Austin earned her law degree from Fordham University School of Law, a Master’s degree in Management and Policy from New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and a Bachelor’s degree from Rutgers University.
Minister Danielle Ayers
Minister of Justice at Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, TX

Minister Ayers is the co-author of To Serve This Present Age: Social Justice Ministers in the Black Church. Minister Ayers also serves as the Co-convener of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, a delegate of the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race and President Jimmy Carter’s New Baptist Covenant Advisory team.

Using her gifts and talents as Minister of Justice, Ayers mobilizes and organizes the church and community around various issues such as wrongful convictions, mass incarceration, predatory lending, zoning, food deserts, voting participation, legal resources, and just restoration for Haiti, to name a few. Ayers also lends her voice on panels around social issues and conducts workshops for developing justice ministries.

Minister Ayers provides leadership to the Village Co-op, which consists of a community garden, a Fair Trade Justice program, and a supply chain support for farmers. She holds a B.B.A. in Marketing from The University of Memphis and is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity at Brite Divinity School.
Rev. Dr. Kevin W. Cosby is the Senior Pastor, St. Stephen Church; President, Simmons College of Kentucky; Author, Lecturer and Senior Pastor of St. Stephen Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Due greatly to his practical and dynamic Bible teachings, the congregation has grown from 500 to approximately 14,000 members and has been recognized by Outreach magazine as one of the 100 largest churches in America (2010) and Emerge magazine as one of six “super churches” of the South. During his tenure at St. Stephen, the church has transformed from the “little church on the corner” to a multifaceted institution that includes a 1,700-seat worship center, a cutting-edge $4 million inner-city family life center and a 1,000-seat worship facility in Jeffersonville, Indiana. In October 2013, Dr. Cosby began a satellite church in Hardin County, Kentucky. During the first Sunday service, seventy people united with the church.

The thread of God’s hand is interwoven into the tapestry of Dr. Cosby’s life and ministry. The providence of God is seen most clearly in Dr. Cosby’s ministry in the resurgence of Simmons College of Kentucky (SCKY). In 1997, the Lord led Dr. Cosby to encourage the church to purchase the original four-acre campus of Simmons University (now Simmons College of KY) and convert the property into a lifestyle enrichment campus.
Keri Day is an Assistant Professor of Theological and Social Ethics & Director of Black Church Studies Program at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. She earned an M.A. in Religion and Ethics from Yale University and received her Ph.D. in Religion from Vanderbilt University. Her research focuses on how black religious thought addresses political and economic injustices, especially among black women. Her articles and essays have been published in a number of nationally regarded journals such as *Black Theology: An International Journal* and *The Journal for the Society of Christian Ethics*. Her first academic book, *Unfinished Business: Black Women, The Black Church, and the Struggle to Thrive in America*, was published by Orbis Books in November of 2012. Her second book, *Resisting Neoliberalism Through a Politics of Hope*, is currently under review, and she is at work on her third book project, which explores the black religious dimensions of “Resurrection City” associated with the Poor People’s Campaign Movement.

Alongside her scholarship, she also engages public policy leaders. In 2011, she was the keynote speaker at the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast in Springfield, Illinois, highlighting the importance of interfaith dialogue within local communities. In addition, she was part of the 2012 delegation of scholars who participated in the White House Religious Scholars Briefing in Washington D.C. to discuss issues related to economic policy, religious freedom, faith-based initiatives, human rights efforts, and peacebuilding efforts around the world. She has been a guest political commentator on KERA/NPR and DFW/FOX News on issues related to faith and politics. She also has written for the Dallas Morning News’ Faith and Politics Blog as well as The Feminist Wire.
Rev. Durr is a minister, educator, and teacher that inspires, galvanizes, and promotes hope across the county from churches to barber shops to public schools. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, he attended American Baptist College (B.A.), and Vanderbilt University (M.DIV). As a Presidential Scholar at ABC, and Kelly Miller Smith Fellow at Vanderbilt, he helped facilitate various initiatives and discussions involving childhood education, juvenile justice, the prison industrial complex, Black Church Studies, and cultural criticism.

As a preacher, presenter, and lecturer, he has shared in different academic and ecclesial settings, as well as in the Juvenile Justice Center and Riverbend Maximum Security Prison with wide-ranging messages including: The church at a crossword between despair, desire, and deliverance intergenerational ministry in the 21st century Black church; The Life and times of JC:(Jesus Christ) Chronicles of a God chaser, Finding God in an unexpected place, and Confessions of a Slumdog Messiah; The messages, images, and influences of hip hop on the Black experience in America; and, Am I a problem: racial profiling, vigilante-ism and social transformation. He serves as the Executive Pastor of Community Development at Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.
Mercedes Fulbright
Texas State Director, Local Progress

Mercedes is the Texas State Coordinator for Local Progress Texas, a project of the Center for Popular Democracy. She works closely with community organizations throughout the Lone Star State to bring progressive policy solutions to local elected progressives. Mercedes is an experienced and respected voice on political strategy, racial justice advocacy, effective progressive leadership training, grassroots organizing, and public policy. Her life’s work builds at the intersections of electoral politics and social justice, developing socially conscious leaders in marginalized communities to combat inequities with a global lens.

She is the former Special Assistant to the President at Paul Quinn College, a historically Black College in Dallas, Texas. Under her management, she assisted in launching the African American Leadership Institute, a Dallas-based think tank housed at Paul Quinn, for the study and advancement of public policy, economic development, civic engagement, and leadership development as it relates to the African American community and Black elected officials throughout the state of Texas. She previously worked for Young People For (YP4), a program of People for the American Way Foundation, in Washington, DC. She developed a critically conscious curriculum for strategic youth leadership development training and oversaw their national civic engagement and voter mobilization campaigns with many of her projects in North Carolina to combat voter suppression.

Mercedes serves as a C4 National board member with BYP100, a member-based organization of Black youth activists creating justice and freedom for all Black people. She is a strategist with the Electoral Justice Project, a national table with the Movement for Black Lives (Black Lives Matter), centering electoral politics and organizing tactics for Black communities. She was the former chairwoman of the National Youth Work Committee of the NAACP, former Youth Board Member on the National Board of Trustees for the NAACP, and has also served as the Dallas NAACP Youth Advisor. Mercedes received her Master’s in Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington and her BA in Political Science from the University of North Texas.
Dr. Melanie Harris  
*Associate Professor of Religion, Texas Christian University*

Dr. Melanie is an Associate Professor of Religion at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX, where she teaches and conducts research in the areas of Religious Social Ethics, Environmental Justice, Womanist Ethics, and African American Religious Thought. Dr. Harris is the author of numerous articles and several books, including *Gifts of Virtue: Alice Walker and Womanist Ethics* and co-editor of the volume *Faith, Feminism, and Scholarship: The Next Generation*. Her books engaging ecowomanism and the intersections between environmental justice and African American Women’s Religious Life and Spirituality are scheduled to be published by Orbis Books in 2016. Dr. Harris offers academic leadership in administration at TCU and has experience serving on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Religion, The Society of Christian Ethics, and KERA-TV/Radio. She also leads retreats with her mother, Rev. Dr. Naomi O. Harris, and co-facilitates teaching workshops with The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion.
Abeni Jewel Haynes  
*Public Relations Specialist/Administrator/Actress, Friendship-West Baptist Church*

Jamacia Johnson  
*Founder & Producer  
State of Black*

Toska Medlock  
*Founder & Producer  
State of Black*

CEO of The Myriad Group, a full-service marketing communications agency | Toska Medlock Lee is a marketing professional whose experience spans over 25 years of delivering exemplary work in the fields of community relations, marketing communications, event planning, community engagement, and meeting planning. As a Dallas-based business owner, her marketing and communications firm, The Myriad Group has been called upon to drive innovative campaigns in the private sector, government, non-profit and entertainment industries with a focus on media and community outreach. As a senior public relations practitioner and marketing executive, Ms. Medlock Lee has used her experience to help build brands in ministry, media, and music (primarily Gospel music). She managed the musical success of Juanita Bynum, including earning Platinum Certification by the RIAA, for the studio recording of A Piece of My Passion.
Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. serves as the senior pastor of Cathedral International—The Historic Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, NJ. Dr. Hilliard's willingness to “Say Yes!” to the Lord has fostered his ability to provide leadership in the exponential growth of the church over the last 35 years. Now, “One Church in Four Locations,” Cathedral International has expanded its ministry to serve the specific needs of four different locations in New Jersey: Cathedral International in Perth Amboy, Cathedral International in Asbury Park, Cathedral International in Plainfield, and Iglesias Cathedral in Perth Amboy. Cited by the American Baptist Churches (USA) as a model for church growth, Cathedral International is a multifaceted, relevant church that has grown exponentially throughout the years.

From an array of community groups, non-profit agencies, and governmental associations, Dr. Hilliard has received numerous awards and citations for his efforts inside the church and beyond, including his role in the ongoing renewal of downtown Perth Amboy. A few of those honors include; the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ (1995), and The American Baptist Church, USA Evangelism Award (1996).

Bishop Hilliard was also inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA. (1995), and received the Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce Executive of the Year Award (1994), the Drew University Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award (1994) and the Distinguished Alumni of the Year, Eastern University (2006). In 2008, The New York Council of Churches presented Dr. Hilliard with the prestigious, Clergy of the Year Award. He is a past board member of the Joint College of African-American Pentecostal Bishops and is a lifetime member of the NAACP. He has also received the “Humanitarian Award” from the National Conference for Community and Justice, and has also served as a commissioner for the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Authority.

Bishop Hilliard is a servant of God who continues to say “Yes” to the Lord's call on his life and by doing so, has positively affected the lives of thousands with his gift to turn a glimmer of hope into opportunity.

Bishop Hilliard is now retired as the Presiding Bishop of the Covenant Ecumenical Fellowship and Cathedral Assemblies (CEFCA) and now serves as Bishop Emeritus, having turned the reigns of CEFCA (now CFA) under the hand of Bishop Hollister Curtis Douglas in June 2018. As Bishop Emeritus of the Reformation, Bishop still serves as Retired Presiding Bishop at Large.
David Malcolm McGruder is a minister, educator, and organizer hailing from Kansas City, Kansas. His ministry, professional, and community service experience includes work with the Brisbane Institute of Political Science & Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College, the Project for Peace & Progress Inc., the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the Black Church Center for Justice & Equality, Mt. Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton, Maryland, the Office of U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, and the Office of U.S. Senator Pat Roberts. Most recently, David served as Associate Director for Youth Development and Outreach at the Princeton Family YMCA in Princeton, NJ, where he focused on creating and sustaining educational enrichment programming designed to engage minority students and their families, and close the achievement gap in Mercer County.

David is a graduate of Morehouse College (B.A., Political Science and Philosophy) in Atlanta, GA where he was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship & Prize, and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div., Theology, Politics, & Ethics), where he was awarded the Aaron E. Gast Prize in Urban Ministry. He is currently pursuing a post-graduate qualification in History, Religion, and International Relations from Wolfson College at the University of Cambridge in the U.K. His publications include “The Finished Work” in A Beautiful Thing: Sermons from Young Preachers (Chalice Press, 2010), “Locked Up: Theological Reflections on Prisons, Repression, and Resistance,” in The African American Lectionary (October, 2011), et al. His broader research interests include postmodern theology, political philosophy, and Africana studies.

Today, David has the honor and privilege of serving as Pastor of Youth and Collegiate Ministries at Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas, TX, a ministry with global impact, led by Rev. Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes III. David is the son of Marvin and Anne McGruder and the elder brother of Marlayna & Phillip.
Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson, Sr. accepted his call to ministry at the age of 17 and has served as the Senior Pastor of Eastern Star Church in Indianapolis, Indiana since 1988. Under his leadership, the “One Church in Three Locations” has grown to more than 17,000 members and has planted three churches in Indianapolis as well. Pastor Johnson received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion with Honors from Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, and matriculated at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. He has also received numerous honorary doctorate degrees, highly-esteemed community awards, and was voted the 2012 “Best Pulpiteer” by Black Christian News Network One, an international online media resource.

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“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”
Ephesians 6:13 (NRSV)

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