



4th Annual Anne Berry Bonnyman Symposium Love Thy Neighbor: Equity in Immigration



Presenter Biographies



Ali Noorani is Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum, a non-partisan advocacy organization working with faith, law enforcement and business leaders to promote the value of immigrants and immigration. Growing up in California as the son of Pakistani immigrants, Ali learned how to forge alliances among people of wide-ranging backgrounds and is known as an innovative coalition builder. Before joining the Forum, Ali was executive director of the MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, and was a leader in public health and environmental organizations. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, has an MPH from Boston University and is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. He lives in Washington, D.C. and is the author of *There Goes the Neighborhood: How Communities Overcome Prejudice and Meet the Challenge of American Immigration* and host of “Only in America” podcast.”



The Rev. Dr. Carolyn J. Sharp is Professor of Homiletics, Yale Divinity School. Professor Sharp’s research explores the poetics and theology of Hebrew Scripture texts as resources for homiletical (preaching) theory and practice. She is interested in ways in which contemporary preaching can draw artfully on biblical studies, feminist perspectives on power, and emancipatory pedagogy. Her books include *Irony and Meaning in the Hebrew Bible* (2009) and *Wrestling the Word: The Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Believer* (2010). She is a member of the Academy of Homiletics, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the Society of Biblical Theologians, and is on the editorial board of the journal *Horizons in Biblical Theology*. She received her Ph.D. and MAR from Yale University and a BA in Religious Studies, from Wesleyan University. She is an Episcopal priest and preaches regularly at St. Thomas’s Episcopal Church in New Haven and elsewhere.



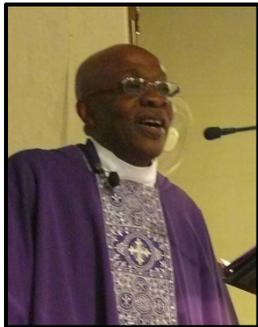
Andrea Spake is a first generation American who was born and raised in Lakewood, Washington. As an undergraduate she had the opportunity to travel to Central America where she found her desire to work abroad and help underserved populations. After finishing her Bachelor’s degree at the University of Great Falls in Great Falls Montana, Andrea joined the US Peace Corps where she spent nearly 3 years living and working in rural Ethiopia teaching sustainable agricultural practices. She is now the Community Relations Manager for the International Institute of New England and recently finished her Master’s degree at Northeastern University.



Jeffrey Thielman is President and CEO of the International Institute of New England in 2015. Prior to joining IINE, he co-founded the national Cristo Rey Network and spent nearly two decades creating schools that serve 11,000 low income and immigrant students in 21 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Early in his professional career, Jeff was a trial attorney in Boston and worked in the financial services industry. Between college and law school, he served as a Jesuit International Volunteer in Tacna, Peru, where he was a teacher and founder of a program for street children called the Center for the Working Child, which has been replicated in several cities in Peru. He is co-author of *Volunteer: With the Poor in Peru*, holds undergraduate and law degrees from Boston College, and is fluent in Spanish. Jeff also serves on the Arlington School Committee.



Nora Valdez is an Argentine-born artist working and exhibiting since 1977. Her work has been exhibited in a variety of venues in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Italy, Spain, Germany, Greece, Japan, Canada, and the United States. Ms. Valdez has utilized sculpture and installations to create images that reflect on the nature of change, the life of the individual, and the natural or societal forces that buffet our souls. While her earlier installations explored the effects of alienation caused by various forms of repression, her stone work seeks to make more subtle comments on these concerns. Her thematic concerns are also reflected in her community involvement: doing public art projects and giving workshops at a variety of urban institutions. Art becomes not just a way to explore issues of human rights but to have a direct effect on them as well. Ms. Valdez graduated from the College of Fine Arts (Mercedes San Luis, Argentina) as a Professor of Fine Arts.



The Rev. Dr. Monrelle T. Williams is Rector of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Roxbury and a native of Barbados, West Indies. The Rev. Dr. Williams has been a priest since 1979, has been involved in many levels of church life, and believes in a shared ministry. He served in churches in Barbados and in Oakland CA and was a Lecture/Senior Lecturer at Codrington Theological College (Theological Seminary of the Church of the Province of the West Indies). He has been involved in regional ecumenical organizations in the Caribbean. In the Episcopal Church he was member of the Bishop's Board of Examining Chaplains, the Commission on Ministry, served on the Search Committees for the Dean of Grace Cathedral, was the Dean and President of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and a member of the Commission on Corporate Social Responsibility. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Theology from the University of the West Indies, a Master's Degree in Philosophy (Ecumenism) from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland and a Doctorate degree from Durham University in England.