



**Multi-Faith Convening to End Mass Incarceration**  
**Location: Ebenezer Baptist Church**  
**June 17-19, 2019**

**Breakout Session Descriptions**

**Workshop Descriptions**

**How to Confront Mass Incarceration in the Age Afro-Phobia & Anti-Blackism**

Tuesday 10:30 AM, **Presenter: Rev. Willie Francois**

This workshop will focus on how the present context of intensified violence against black lives and fear of Afro descendent people requires that mass incarceration be examined specifically from the viewpoint of how it has affected—and is currently affecting—communities of color. It will also offer ways that faith communities can confront anti-blackism and mass imprisonment.

**How to Break the School to Prison Pipeline**

Tuesday 10:30 AM, **Presenter: Deirdre Reed**

This workshop will highlight the nationwide system of local, state and federal education and public safety policies that pushes students out of school and into the criminal justice system. It will also present strategies that faith communities can take to scale up the systems, structures, and policies that build safe, holistic, and healing schools for all students. It will also give best practices for faith-based creation of supportive systems for student, schools and community.

**The unique impact of Mass Incarceration on the American Muslim Community**

Tuesday 10:30 AM, **Presenter: Edward Mitchell**

This workshop will provide an overview of how the justice system has prosecuted and punished Muslim defendants at a disproportionately high rate in recent decades. It will also highlight common problems that Muslim inmates face in the prison system, including restrictions on their right to practice their faith and prepare for a future beyond bars, all of which contributes to a cycle of crime and imprisonment.

**How Faith and Theological Resources Can be Used in the Fight Against Mass Incarceration**

Tuesday 10:30 AM, **Presenters: Rabbi Lydia Medwin & Patrick Reyes**

This workshop will show how faith leaders and those with moral courage can use religious texts to help them free those who've been incarcerated and denied access to their full humanity. It will show how mass incarceration abolitionists can redeem the stories and traditions that are most dear to people of faith and demonstrate how the common religious values of compassion, goodness, freedom, and justice for all can be a resource for those caught in the snares of our so-called "criminal justice system."

**College Behind Bars**

Tuesday 10:30 AM, **Presenter: Sarah Masters**

This workshop will explore the important work being done in prison around education and empowerment. It will also include scenes from *Rikers* and *College Behind Bars: The Bard Initiative* documentaries followed by a Q & A with formerly incarcerated film protagonists.

### **Understanding Cash Bail and How Faith Communities Can Fight to End It**

Wednesday 10:30 AM, **Presenter: Tiffany Roberts**

This workshop will expose the injustices of the cash bail system. It will make clear that a person should not be incarcerated based upon their lack of ability to pay for their release. Additionally, it will give faith leaders and communities the necessary tools to conduct bail outs of individuals incarcerated for non-violent crimes as a way of raising awareness about the corruption of cash bail.

### **How Congregations Can Fight the Criminalization of Poverty & Resist the For-Profit Criminal Justice System**

Wednesday 10:30 AM, **Presenter: Marissa Dodson**

This workshop will provide an overview of how congregations can fight mass incarceration through clearing the criminal record of eligible citizens, probation reform and advocating for legislation that ends for profit criminalization. It will offer examples of how faith communities have effectively removed impediments to full citizenship by removing arrests, charges and minor blemishes from a citizen's criminal record.

### **How to Care for the Formerly Incarcerated and Stop the Cycle of Repeat Incarceration**

Wednesday 10:30 AM, **Presenters: Dr. Elizabeth Bounds, Tariq Baiyina, Dr. Harold Trulear, Pamela Winn**

This workshop will examine the intersection of community organizing, education, and ministry programs in work to dismantle mass incarceration. Specifically it will show how faith communities can care for returning citizens and use their resources to stop the rate of repeat incarceration. It will show how congregations can transform their culture by recognizing that mass incarceration touches a lot more people in congregations than often recognizes.

### **How Faith Communities Can Help Change Narrative Around Incarceration and Criminal Justice**

Wednesday 10:30 AM, **Presenter: Dr. Fred Allen**

This workshop aims to shift the dialogue around mass incarceration and the perceptions about people once or currently caught up in the systemic policies. It seeks to show how faith communities are uniquely positioned to use theological resources to affirm the dignity and worth of formerly incarcerated persons. It will also expose bad theologies and religious teachings that have historically contributed to mass incarceration.

### **Preaching Lab**

Tuesday & Wednesday 10:30 AM, **Presenter: Dr. Lisa Weaver**

The preaching labs are designated for practitioners of preaching to explore best practices for using sacred rhetoric as a tool of resistance to mass incarceration. Experienced homiletics will guide the exploration how religious texts can be used in public proclamation to inspire moral courage to stand against the evils of mass incarceration.