THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital PRESBYTERY

MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

May 24, 2018

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Joys



Sarah Cairatti, Assoc. Pastor, Clifton and her husband, Brian welcomed, Simone Ann Carreira, into the world on May 19th! Sarah says, "We are incredibly grateful and totally in love with her. She's got strawberry blonde hair and loves to eat!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Georgetown Presbyterian Church is hosting a training with a Board of Pensions representative, Martha Reisner, on Thursday, May 31st, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information covered will be especially helpful for church administrators and personnel committees, including information on tax liability, BOP dues, health insurance, and retirement plans. Please RSVP to Chris Chatelaine-Samsen at ccs@gtownpres.org. Georgetown Pres is located at 3115 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20007.

Five short sleeve clergy shirts in good condition to give away. (Black, White, Brown, Blue and Grey). Three are size 15 and two are 15½. Contact Bob Angus, 202-237-1929.



Christ Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, VA, has a used communion service set for free. Contact Geoffrey McLean pastor@cpcfairfax.org if interested.



Straining Forward: Minh Phuong Towner's Story (Available at Amazon) by Michelle Layer Rahal (Author)

In the early morning hours of January 31, 1968, New Year fireworks gave way to gunfire and bombs. Eleven-year-old Minh watched in horror as her father and two siblings were gunned down by the Vietcong in their backyard. Though she escaped the bullets that night, prison, torture, and rape would follow. The tragedy of her childhood would haunt Minh for the rest of her life and lead her to question God's very existence. Why had He turned His back? What had she done to deserve such punishment? Was she beyond redemption? Minh's dramatic story of escape from war-torn Vietnam, as well as dangerous and unhealthy relationships throughout her life, is told with raw sincerity. Straining Forward is a riveting, spiritual journey of hope and healing that reminds

readers that we are all more than victims of circumstance and that even in the loneliest and most desolate moments, we are never truly alone. *Minh Towner is a minister member of this Presbytery, currently serving at Vienna Presbyterian Church.*



Apply to the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program today!! Final round for the 18-19 season open until June 1. National sites only are available.

Program benefits include a regular stipend, housing, **transportation and student-loan repayment options** throughout the duration of the service year. For more info, visit the FAQ tab at the top of the **YAV homepage**. Also, follow **@yavprogram** as current YAVs take over the account. Help plants seeds of service and spread the word!

Have a House for Rent? Know Someone Who Does? - The PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer site here in Washington, DC is looking to rent a 2-3-bedroom home, ideally starting in August 2018. The program has values in creating an intentional community for the young adults, being good neighbors and fostering community, and living in the city itself. If you have any connections to people or spaces that might help us find a new location, we would be grateful. Contact Jessica Tate with any information or leads.

revjetate@gmail.com.

New Testament Reading Acts 15:1-14 (from *The Message*)

It wasn't long before some Jews showed up from Judea insisting that everyone be circumcised: "If you're not circumcised in the Mosaic fashion, you can't be saved." Paul and Barnabas were up on their feet at once in fierce protest. The church decided to resolve the matter by sending Paul, Barnabas, and a few others to put it before the apostles and leaders in Jerusalem.

After they were sent off and on their way, they told everyone they met as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria about the breakthrough to the non-Jewish outsiders. Everyone who heard the news cheered—it was terrific news!

When they got to Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas were graciously received by the whole church, including the apostles and leaders. They reported on their recent journey and how God had used them to open things up to the outsiders. Some Pharisees stood up to say their piece. They had become believers, but continued to hold to the hard party line of the Pharisees. "You have to circumcise the pagan converts," they said. "You must make them keep the Law of Moses."

The apostles and leaders called a special meeting to consider the matter. The arguments went on and on, back and forth, getting more and more heated. Then Peter took the floor: "Friends, you well know that from early on God made it quite plain that he wanted the pagans to hear the Message of this good news and embrace it—and not in any secondhand or roundabout way, but firsthand, straight from my mouth. And God, who can't be fooled by any pretense on our part but always knows a person's thoughts, gave them the Holy Spirit exactly as he gave him to us. He treated the outsiders exactly as he treated us, beginning at the very center of who they were and working from that center outward, cleaning up their lives as they trusted and believed him.

"So why are you now trying to out-god God, loading these new believers down with rules that crushed our ancestors and crushed us, too? Don't we believe that we are saved because the Master Jesus amazingly and out of sheer generosity moved to save us just as he did those from beyond our nation? So what are we arguing about?"

There was dead silence. No one said a word. With the room quiet, Barnabas and Paul reported matter-of-factly on the miracles and wonders God had done among the other nations through their ministry. The silence deepened; you could hear a pin drop. James broke the silence. "Friends, listen. Simeon has told us the story of how God at the very outset made sure that racial outsiders were included.

Here we have the first Presbytery meeting. Plus, we know they were Presbyterians because as soon as the matter was allegedly settled it was debated still, again, and again, and again.

From the very beginning the church was engaged in "no small amount of debate" between the Petrines and the Paulines. The Petrines read their Bibles literally. The law was the law. One did not pick and choose which commandments to follow and which not to follow. Paul however was faced with a problem as the pastor of the small congregation in Antioch. His church was full of Greek speaking members, new members. They had to go to work on Saturday. Their bosses were not Jews who understood the sabbath observance. If they insisted on a Sabbath

they would be out of a job. Not to mention circumcision. Wow. I not sure I would sign up for confirmation class with that to look forward to! Timothy made the penultimate sacrifice for peace, unity and purity of the church. Frankly, Paul hasn't got a scripturally compelling argument here. He relies on the Holy Spirit coming into folks and that is enough to jettison the Biblical law? Really? Looking further into Acts we see that this Presbytery decision did not settle the matter. Far from it. They just came to a compromise to hold the church together long enough for their own position to prevail. James was hardcore Biblicist all the way. Peter seems to be somewhere between James and Paul. He forgoes the circumcision knife, but not the kosher dietary knife and fork. Still, he backslides now and again. Some others were more extreme than Paul rejecting any connection to Judaism and resistance to any moral prescription. Paul corrects them in a couple of letters. Barnabas was later rejected by Paul to go with him on his congregational visits because of his Petrine position on biblical observance. Later, we see that Silas is sent with Paul to control his message out among the congregations. The Petrines of Jerusalem church regularly sent pairs of overseers out to the churches to correct the thinking of these Greek speaking converts. Paul did his best to come around right on their heels to shore up his assertion that Christ was God incarnate and to encourage the believers to resist these false teachers. Most of the mean things Paul is spouting in his letters are toward these Petrine Christians and their insistence that all the Jewish law, the Biblical directives, be observed.

This Presbytery is now engaged in the search for its next Presbytery leader as I will be exiting the stage here in October. We see here that Paul's work is not so different from visiting a congregation just after they have heard from ECO or EPC or PCA or Presbyterian Church of Cameroon, or of Mexico, or of Ghana. His work is not so different from discussing what the Reformed thresholds are for an entrance exam for an incoming pastor, or final assessment for a candidate. Also, not so different from an engagement with the closet Unitarian ready to jettison ordination vows and essential doctrine altogether.

In coming weeks as the Presbytery Committee searches for the next Presbytery leader, we will explore the work of Paul, the first Presbytery leader. Presbytery leaders are right here in the Bible. Stated Clerks are here too. Someone was keeping the minutes of the first Presbytery meeting we see here in Acts 15. Paul traveled from church to church to encourage the faithful and to reinforce their adherence to his understanding of the gospel. Here is Paul exercising judgment over who should and who should not lead a church community as its pastor. Here is Paul rich in relationship and committed to restraining sin. Here is Paul the first Presbytery leader.



G. Wilson Gunn, Jr.
Your present Presbytery Leader/ General Presbyter

Quill of the Stated Clerk

The National Capital Presbytery met on May 22, 2018 at National Presbyterian Church. The theme was "The Prophetic Witness of the Church." During the meeting, NCP, led by Moderator Bill Plitt:

- Celebrated Debbie Golden's 30 years of employment by NCP with a cake and flowers. The body gave Debbie, our Bookkeeper/Program Assistant, a standing ovation for her dedicated work.
- Welcomed new teaching elder members David Bowerman (Grace Lanham) and Erin Keys (Capitol Hill).
- Adopted the Child and Youth Protection Policy for National Capital Presbytery. (All congregations are required to have such a policy too!)
- Heard a report from Tressie Mulrow, Chair of the General Presbyter Search Committee, and held table discussions to answer questions posed by the GPSC to assist them in the search.
- Saw a Mission Video concerning NCP's programs around the "E Word"— Evangelism.
- Listened to a State of the Presbytery address by General Presbyter Wilson Gunn—which included a long list of churches that gained membership during 2017.
- Welcomed PCUSA Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, who preached a sermon, "Reformed Politics" based on the text at Matthew 23:1-12.
- Celebrated the Lord's Supper, led by Rev. Nelson and by Rev. Denise Anderson, Co-Moderator of the PCUSA.
- Made a change to the Financial Policy which will permit continuation of the annual Parish Pastor Retreat.
- Regretfully approved dismissal of Neelsville Presbyterian Church to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians upon completion of several actions.
- Resoundingly approved the renomination of Ruling Elder Todd McCreight to be Treasurer of National Capital Presbytery for a three-year term.

Peace and blessings, Sara

Sara M. Coe Stated Clerk National Capital Presbytery scoe@thepresbytery.org 240-514-5352

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To all musical directors and singing friends:

On the evening June 26, I will moderate my last meeting of Presbytery. Tradition has it that outgoing moderators lead the worship and deliver the message at that time.

I am appealing to all who might wish to sing perhaps one anthem, say "Guide My Feet Lord" by a 'blended' chorus, representative of the diversity of our Presbytery.

I felt some inspiration this morning. My sermon that evening will be based upon verses in Acts 10: 1-36 and the theme is "thinking about the other". I have heard some great choirs now in these last two years of travel amongst you, and bringing together a combined group of "friends" drawn from my travels to National Presbyterian Church that night would not only be a gratifying personal experience but more importantly, support the message.

I have no idea about how to generate a group in a short amount of time for such a gathering. The spirit has been good to me so far, so I will ask God to "build it" and will trust that "they will come!". The music would have to be a familiar one for sure, and I am going to need someone to direct it, and help organize the gathering that night.

I am thinking this would be like the moment in September when Dr. Ysaye Bardwell of "Sweet Honey and the Rock" led the impromptu singing. It was marvelous! We could use an "open space" time to rehearse an hour before the business meeting which begins at 6:00 P.M.

Please let me know of the names of members of your choirs and their contact information for those who'd like to join us that night. **Send to:** moderator@comcast.net

Gratefully, BiLL Plitt Moderator, National Capital Presbytery



Rev. Dr. Benton J. Trawick, Pastor Rev. Susan Wisseman, Associate Pastor

May 8, 2018

To the Leadership Council of National Capital Presbytery:

After prayerful discussion of the financial challenges faced by our sisters and brothers at Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church that have resulted in an "emergency loan" from National Capital Presbytery, our session has voted to make a contribution of \$1500.00 toward the repayment of the loan.

We recognize that the gift is small in comparison to the size of the loan, but we hope for two results to come from it:

First, we hope for our friends at Garden Memorial to know that they are not alone in their challenge. As sisters and brothers in a connectional church, we send prayers of encouragement and support along with our contribution.

And secondly, we hope that other sessions might feel led to make similar small gifts toward the repayment of the loan. One gift of \$1500.00 is not much in itself—but if twenty congregations made such a gift, it would cover nearly half of Garden Memorial's loan and greatly lighten their burden, while also replenishing the presbytery's coffers more quickly, thereby making the funds available to help other congregations in need.

We offer the enclosed small gesture of gratitude—a mere mustard seed, if you will. Please apply it to Garden Memorial's obligation.

Faithfully,

Ben Trawick For the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Springfield, VA

7434 Bath Street Springfield, VA 22150 703-451-2900 Fax: 703-451-3313 www.gracepresby.org



Over the past two years, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has reached out to communities in more than 30 states across this nation. We have met with tens of thousands of people, witnessing the strength of their moral courage in trying times. We have gathered testimonies from hundreds of poor people and we have chronicled their demands for a better society. The campaign's moral agenda is drawn from this deep engagement and commitment to these struggles of the poor and dispossessed. It is also grounded in an empirical assessment of how we have come to this point today.

When confronted with the undeniable truth of unconscionable cruelty to our fellow human beings, we must join the ranks of those who are determined not to rest until justice and equality are a reality for all.

For more information: www.poorpeoplescampaign.org

Beginning on Sunday, May 13th the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival will launch its 40 days of non-violent direct action. If you wish to participate, please attend a non-violence action meeting:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdpYz945X6qs3n1d1Q4Kb8EWtF0MedAmhAJ2JN0crL88aprBQ/viewform

The themes for the weeks of action are:

Week 1 (May 13-19) - Somebody's Hurting Our People: Child poverty, Women, and People with Disabilities

Week Two (May 20-26) – Linking Systemic Racism and Poverty: Voting Rights, Immigration and Mistreatment of Indigenous Communities)

Week Three (May 27-June 2) - The War Economy: militarism and the proliferation of gun violence

Week Four (June 3-9) - Ecological Devastation and the Right Health

Week Five (June 10-16) - Everybody's Got the Right to Live: Education, Jobs, Income and Housing

Week Six (June 17-22) - A New and Unsettling Force

Reclaiming Jesus

Church Service & Candlelight Vigil to the White House

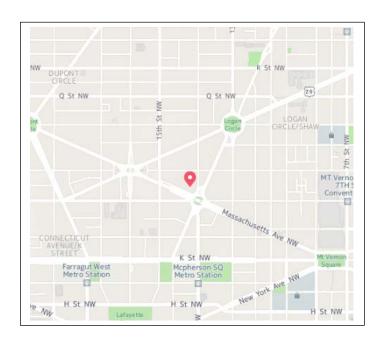
Thursday, May 24, 2018

7 p.m. @ National City Christian Church

5 Thomas Cir NW, Washington, DC 20005



More details of the event and the full statement can be found at www.reclaimingjesus.org



"It is often the duty of Christian leaders, especially elders, to speak the truth in love to our churches and to name and warn against temptations, racial and cultural captivities, false doctrines, and political idolatries—and even our complicity in them. We do so here with humility, prayer, and a deep dependency on the grace and Holy Spirit of God." – from

www.reclaimingjesus.org

During the final year of his life, Martin Luther King declared: "If we are to survive, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values."

Join us on Saturday, June 9, to explore the meaning of Dr. King's words for your life

Embracing Dr. King's Message for Today

Featuring Rev. Raphael Warnock
Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta
(Martin Luther King's Church)



June 9, 2018 10 am - 12:30 pm
The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
1313 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(Coffee and refreshments available at 9:30 am)

A morning of music, inspirational messages and small group conversation. Learn how to make Dr. King's teachings real in your life!

Free child care and free parking at Green City Parking on H Street between 12th and 13th

Please RSVP to warnockjune9.eventbrite.com Or call 240 393-7246 to register







ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT PREPARING FOR MINISTRY WITHIN THE PC(USA) ARE INVITED TO ATTEND:

OPEN SPACE, TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 4-5 PM
NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW. WASHINGTON, DC 20016

A PANEL OF MEMBERS FROM THE NCP COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY AND NCP INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES WILL PRESENT:

- A FORUM FOR CONGREGATIONS INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT THE PROCESS FOR ASSISTING A MEMEBER WHO IS CONSIDERING A CALL TO MINISTRY IN THE PC(USA)
- INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR ANYONE WHO MAY BE DISCERNING A CALL TO MINISTRY

Questions: Contact Jan Moody, jmoody@thepresbytery.org

Certification Program

Level I

Core Classes (20 hours)

•	Church History	5 hours
•	Polity I	5 hours
•	Office Administration	2.5 hours
•	Spiritual Growth & Disc.	2.5 hours
•	Theology	5 hours

Plus Elective Classes (20 hours)

Level II

Core Classes (17.5 hours)

	\	
•	Directory for Worship	2.5 hours
•	Legal Matters	2.5 hours
•	Office Administration	2.5 hours
•	PC(USA) History Since Reunion	5.0 hours
•	Polity II	2.5 hours
•	Spiritual Growth & Disc.	2.5 hours
Pl11	Florting Classes (27.5 hours)	

Plus Elective Classes (27.5 hours)

Level III

Core Classes (12.5 hours)

•	Book of Confessions	2.5 hours		
•	GA Entities	2.5 hours		
•	Office Administration	2.5 hours		
•	Polity III	2.5 hours		
•	Spiritual Growth & Disc.	2.5 hours		
Plus Elective Classes (37.5 hours)				

Note: When you are within 10 hours of completion of your current level, you may begin study in the next level.

Regardless of your current level hours you can take a core class only (i.e. not electives) for the next level up provided you advise your regional certification chair of your intent to take a core class for the next level.



APA Mission

The mission of the Administrative Personnel Association is to offer opportunities for professional development and personal growth for those called by God to serve as support staff of the PC(USA). We accomplish this by providing continuing education events for certification and occasions for fellowship, worship, spiritual nurture, and prayer at national and regional conferences as well as at seminary sponsored training events.

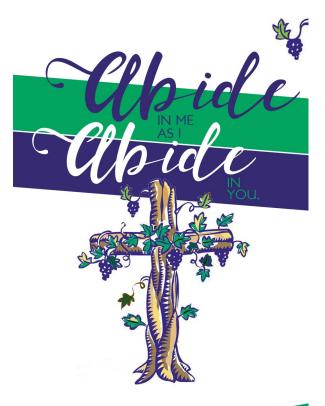
Purpose

The purpose shall be to provide a supportive organization for promoting continuing education, individual growth, communication, and fellowship for its members; to deepen and strengthen lives spiritually and professionally, and to work for the mission of the church universal.

APA Membership

Those eligible for membership in APA include non-ordained staff of Presbyterian churches or agencies, including secretaries, clerks of session and other administrative and/or daycare staff. Dues and certification fees must be paid before any classes count toward your certification, and they must be paid annually.

For more information about APA visit the website at www.pcusa-apa.org.



John 15:4, MRSV

Mid-Atlantic APA One-Day Seminar

June 29, 2018

First Presbyterian Church of Howard County 9325 Presbyterian Circle Columbia, MD 21045-1829

Class Opportunities

FRIDAY AM:

Office Administration (All)

FRIDAY PM:

Spiritual Growth & Discipline (All)

Legend:
Core
(I) = Level I
(II) = Level II
(III) - Level III
(All) = All Levels
(E) = Elective

Lodging

Holiday Inn East Elkridge 6064 Marshalee Drive Elkridge, MD 21075 (410) 579-8888

Double Queen or

King

Includes full American
breakfast

Thursday, June
28th only

Each guest must make their own reservation no later than <u>May 28th</u> to guarantee group rate.

<u>Identifying group</u>: APA

<u>View hotel information at</u>: http://www.guestreservations.com/holiday-inn-express-suites-columbia-east-elkridge/booking

Conference Schedule

Friday, June 29, 2018

8:30a – Registration (Sanctuary Narthex)

9:00a- Welcome and Devotional (Sanctuary)

9:30a – Office Administration Class

10:45a – *Break*

11:00a – Office Administration resumes

12:30 - Lunch

1:45p—Spiritual Growth & Discipline class

3:00p - *Break*

3:15p—Spiritual Growth & Discipline resumes

4:45p – Group Photo (Sanctuary)

5:15p – Program Completion and dismissal

NOTE: An offering will be collected during lunch for the *Bridges Mission: Solving Homelessness with Housing". This non-profit organization provides a path to self-sufficiency to prevent and end homelessness through affordable housing solutions and advocacy in Howard County, Maryland.

Www.bridges2hs.org

(Informational flyer will be included in your welcome packet)

Registration

Name:					
Name Tag:					
Position:					
Church/Govern	ing Body and Region:				
Street:					
City/State/ZIP:					
Phone:	(W)	(C)			
Email:					
I would like to	confirm participat	ion in:			
Both Cla	sses				
Office A	dministration				
Spiritua	l Growth & Discipli	ne			
Registration C	ost	\$20.00			
Guest Meal		\$15.00			
Lunch Preference (Quantity)	2: Regular Veg	getarian			
	eeds/Restrictions:				

Checks payable to: Mid-Atlantic APA

Mail to:

Mid-Atlantic APA

c/o Cindy Rogers First Presbyterian Church-Newark 292W. Main Street Newark, DE 19711

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT RECEIPT DEADLINE:

<u>June 8th</u>

NCP'S Stewardship Committee is offering scholarships to this event! Email lquander@thepresbytery if interested!

TRANSFORMING THE FACE OF GENEROLIS GENEROL

ROMANS 12:2



September 24 - 26, 2018

St. Louis, MO Hilton St. Louis Frontenac



Keynoter Diana Butler BassAuthor of "Grateful, The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks" due out April 2018.



Keynoter Chick Lane Author of "Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation"



Worship Leader Larissa Kwong Abazia Vice Moderator of the 22 lst General Assembly of the PC(USA)

Plus over 30 workshops covering topics such as annual stewardship, planned giving, theology of giving, current trends in stewardship, capital campaigns, and generosity

To register and for more information visit: www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org



ROMANS 12:2

Who should attend?:

Pastors, lay leaders, judicatory staff, and anyone who is looking to learn more about stewardship in today's church context.

Conference Fee and Location:

\$275 on or before August 1, 2018 \$300 after August 1, 2018 Hilton St. Louis Frontenac in St. Louis, MO Conference Room rate of \$112/night

Conference includes:

Four plenary sessions
Four workshops (30+ to choose from)
Two worship services
Dinner Monday
Breakfast and lunch Tuesday & Wednesday

Conference schedule:

Monday, September 24

Registration (12-2 p.m.)
Conference begins (2 p.m.)
Plenary I, Workshop Session I
Dinner, Worship

Tuesday, September 25

Breakfast
Plenary 2, Workshop Session 2
Lunch
Workshop Session 3, Plenary 3,
Free Evening

Wednesday, September 26

Breakfast Workshop Session 4, Plenary 4, Closing Worship Conference ends with Boxed Lunch to go

Workshops:

(This list is just a sampling of the 30+ workshops that will be offered.)

Fundraising as Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Care J.C. Austin, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem, PA

Creating a Culture of Generosity

Robert Hay, Jr., Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation

Vulnerability and Courage: The Practice of Stewardship

Roy Howard, Pastor for Saint Mark Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD

Planned Giving: 25 Ideas to Get You to the Next Level

Karl Mattison, Director of Planned Giving Resources for the Presbyterian Foundation

Understanding Stewardship in Racial and Ethnic Communities

Jim Reese, Minister for Specialized Interpretation with the Presbyterian Foundation

Electronic Giving: Using Digital Tools to Grow Ministry

Richard Rogers, Vice President at Horizons Stewardship, and author of The eGiving Guide For Every Church (Abingdon Press, 2016)

Understanding Stewardship and Family Systems

Steve Oelschlaeger, Stewardship Project Coordinator, ELCA Stewardship Staff, Domestic Missions Unit

Funding Innovative and New Ministries

Mieke Vandersall, Founding Pastor of Not So Churchy and Principal Consultant at the Vandersall Collective

To register and for more information visit: www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org









Racial Awareness and Mindfulness 2018

A Mini-Festival of the Arts, Awareness, Healing, and Justice

October 20, 2018, 10:00AM-5:00PM | Check-in begins onsite at 9am

MUSIC, DRUMMING, KEYNOTE, WORKSHOPS, EMOTIONAL EMANCIPATION CIRCLES,
INTERPLAY, INTERGENERATIONAL, CAUCUSES, MULTIRACIAL, CHILDREN'S TRACK, FREE
LUNCH, A LEARNING COMMUNITY



Keynote: Author/Scholar

Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

"How to Be An Anti-Racist"

For more information on Dr. Kendi, please visit www.prhspeakers.com

Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I Street SW, Washington DC 20024

Register online: https://2018-racial-awareness-

festival.eventbrite.com

Potter's House Books will be present.