

Dr. Craig J. Richardson

The American Dream and Economic Mobility: Barriers and Solutions

As followers of Christ, we are called to stand with "the least of these" and work toward economic justice for all. But what does economic mobility really mean, and how do we address the systemic barriers that trap many families in cycles of poverty? As United Methodists, we pledge to protect people and the environment over profit. We're called to understand these issues deeply and respond faithfully.

Join us for this essential discussion that bridges faith and action as we explore the complexities of economic mobility in the United States. Together, we'll examine how transportation barriers, housing discrimination, punitive government policies, and workplace inequities continue to limit opportunities for our most vulnerable neighbors. This session challenges us to move beyond good intentions toward meaningful engagement with the economic realities facing our communities.

Guest Speaker, Dr. Craig J. Richardson, is the Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Economic Mobility (CSEM) at Winston-Salem State University and is the Truist Distinguished Professor of Economics. Over his 30-year career as a professor, he has written articles for The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Barron's, and Forbes, as well as published in numerous academic journals. He has also served as executive producer/lead researcher for three documentary films that focus on economic mobility, with themes including first-time homeownership, public transportation, and, most recently, micro transit.