

Workshops, Meetings and Breakouts by Date and Time

4th Biennial Race and Power in America Summit 2022

Gamaliel is pleased to offer a wide variety of breakout offerings designed to develop effective leaders and build powerful organizations and relationships. Workshops are categorized within the following tracks: Religious Leaders, Seminarians, Transformational Justice, Civil Rights of Immigrants, State Strategy and Development, Faith and Labor, Integrated Voter Engagement, and Nun Caucus.

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

* Denotes workshops and sessions "By Invitation Only"

***2:00 p.m. – Gamaliel Network Organizers – A100**

Facilitators: Gamaliel National Staff

***3:00 p.m. – Religious Leaders' Caucus Meeting (90 minutes): Religious Leaders at Race and Power – Bridge Room**

All Religious Leaders are invited to gather for this session. Some of our time will be spent meeting and connecting as leaders in the Gamaliel Network. We will also spend time exploring how White Christian Nationalism and White Supremacy rise up in our faith communities and political landscape. We will begin to explore what is ours to do as Religious Leaders in our local affiliates preparing us for a deeper discussion on Friday with Jim Wallis.

Facilitators: Rev. Marian Boyle-Rohloff and Rev. Dr. Charles Coleman, Co-Chairs, Gamaliel National Religious Leaders' Caucus

***4:00 p.m. – Organizers of Color Meeting – Assigned Salon in Dining Hall**

Facilitators: Tyshianna Bankhead, Faith Coalition for the Common Good, IL, and Mayra Hernandez, Quad Cities Interfaith, IL and IA

***5:30 p.m. – Gamaliel Board of Directors Meeting – Assigned Salon in Dining Hall**

***9:00 p.m. – Seminarians Track: Race and Power Summit, Seminarian Session – A306**

What is the relationship between race, power, faith and theology? The session is not another lecture or workshop but space to summon what you have learned so far at the summit, and integrate it with the biblical, theological, and ethical implications of your context in ministry. Participants will have space to process and plan where vocation is calling them next.

Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise-Baker, Director, Contextual Education, Eden Theological Seminary; Rev. Dr. John C. Welch, Chair, Gamaliel Board of Directors

Thursday, December 1, 2022

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Breakout 1 – 10:30 to 12:00 p.m. ET

Transformational Justice Track: Correcting the Narrative About the Criminal Legal System – Bridge Room

The work to transform the criminal legal system needs to include work to change the language and the metaphors we use in talking about the system and the people impacted by it. The first step in oppression is the dehumanization process, which includes dehumanizing language. To reverse the process, we must reclaim the language and the narrative.

Facilitators: Mark Rice and Amanda Ali, WISDOM, WI

Civil Rights of Immigrants Track – Legalization of 8 Million Americans in Waiting is Possible! – A303

The registry has existed for nearly a century but was last updated in the Reagan era. An update is possible through HR 8433: Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 could normalize the system and let at least 8 million people who have contributed for years to this country come out of the shadows. Setting a new registry date requires no new legislation and lets undocumented residents integrate into the nation they have been part of sometimes for decades. If we move it closer to 2022, we begin to calm the strife over immigration.

Facilitators: TBA

Faith and Labor Track: Unions are not only good for workers; they're good for communities and for democracy! – A304

Faith and Labor are two critical components of building a mass movement for social justice and winning a government that serves all—not just wealthy elites and corporations. Come join us in reviewing how strong unions benefit the whole community and how we build stronger long term relationships between faith and labor.

Facilitators: Ponsella Hardaway, MOSES, Detroit, and Bob King, Gamaliel Board of Directors

State Strategy and Development Track: Building State Power – A306

More than a decade ago, the Gamaliel Network launched a strategy to move from focusing on metropolitan equity to building state power. Since then a number of changes in the political and social landscape of this country have occurred. We have experienced increased polarization, especially around race, class, and the economy; white Christian Nationalism and armed militias, along with their focus on hate speech and violence, have increased; many of our state legislatures are practicing pre-emption; and the pandemic has served to deepen and highlight the resulting divisions. We are clearer than ever that the long-term sustainability of our Network and the successful implementation of our long-term transformational agenda are closely tied with building sustainable state power organizations. This workshop will focus on: strategies for expanding our state bases into geographies and with impacted people we have not traditionally focused on; how to engage in structural racial power analysis of our states; proactive work against hate groups; and more.

Facilitators: Lora McDonald, MORE2, MO and KS, and Ayanna Watkins, MICAH Memphis

Integrated Voter Engagement Track: Voting and Citizenship – A307

What does it mean to be a citizen? How does that definition affect who votes and who doesn't? This session will explore the deeper meaning of citizenship and the practical implications for our organizations and our organizing. We will look at historical shifts in who is allowed to vote and when access expanded. We will think together about how we could build more power by once again expanding access to voting and citizenship.

Facilitators: DeJuan Bland, MOSES, Detroit, MI; Michael Atty, Children's Defense Fund; Adrian Shropshire, Black PAC

Breakout 2 – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. ET

Transformational Justice Track: Transformational Justice Issues and Campaigns – Bridge Room

This workshop will have three parts:

- An in-depth look at a local campaign in Chattanooga against cash bail, and pretrial reform.
- Analysis of a very successful statewide campaign in Wisconsin to increase resources and access to Treatment Alternatives and Diversions
- A look at the intersection of Voter Engagement and Transformational Justice in Kansas City, including increased civic engagement among people with conviction histories.

Facilitators: Allen Shropshire, CALEB, Chattanooga, TN, and Calvin Williford, MORE2, MO and KS

Civil Rights of Immigrants Track – Building Power with Immigrant Workers – A303

Suppose a Complete Inclusive Immigration Reform doesn't seem feasible. Can we get some immigration status relief through other venues considering that most undocumented workers have been on the front lines during this continuous global pandemic and continue to uplift this nation financially and in many ways? Come to this workshop to learn about immigrant workers and how they are building power to stabilize their immigration status.

Facilitators: TBA

Faith and Labor Track: Bargaining for the Common Good – A304

Do you want to build meaningful relationships between faith and labor partners in your community? Do you believe we need a broad coalition of faith, labor, and community members to win racial justice across the country? "Bargaining for the Common Good" is a strategy that brings together unions, faith groups, students, and racial justice organizations to work together as equal partners to win bigger and broader demands at the bargaining table and in the streets. Learn how union members and faith leaders across the country are coming together to fight for racial justice including immigrant rights, protecting essential workers of color, and ending discrimination in our schools and streets. This training will provide tools and best practices for building meaningful faith and labor alliances, concrete examples of successful campaigns and victories, and stories from faith and union leaders on the frontlines fighting for racial justice.

Facilitators: Bianca Cunningham, Bargaining for the Common Good Campaigns Director; KB Brower, Bargaining for the Common Good Faith Fellow:

State Strategy and Development Track: The Conspiracy of Organizing as a Spiritual Practice – A306

Conspire: “With/Spirit”. This session will explore community organizing as a spiritual practice. How does the practice of organizing (doing one-on-ones, agitation, building community through accountability) “fed your spirit?” Open to all to consider their calling or their spirituality and how this connects to their path to power.

Facilitators: Brian Zralek, NOAH Nashville, and Mary Lim-Lampe, Genesis, Oakland, CA

Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) Track: Building Voting Power Across Communities of Color – A307

Who wins when we are divided by race and ethnicity? Who gains when we build power across these manufactured lines of division? As immigrant populations and people of color populations grow across the country and in our communities, we cannot afford to leave transformational power on the table. This session will examine the strategic value of aligning Black voting rights with other communities.

Facilitators: Hannah Freeman, BRIDGE Maryland, Inc.; Jaylon Cal, UCM, IL; and Pablo Tapia, Asamblea de Derechos Civiles, MN

Friday, December 2, 2022

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Breakout 3 – 10:30 to 12:00 p.m. ET

Transformational Justice Track: Transformational Justice 101: How to Start and Sustain a Campaign and a Team – Bridge Room

Organizers from WISDOM and United Congregations of Metro East will look at one 20 year-old campaign (in Wisconsin) and one much newer campaign (in Southern Illinois). This workshop will cover recruitment, training, issue development and maintenance of a campaign for the long-term.

Facilitators: Stephanie Taylor, UCM, Metro-East St. Louis, IL, and David Liners, WISDOM, WI

Environmental Justice Track – Environmental Justice 101 – A303

A presentation and discussion on the origins of environmental justice and the principles behind the environmental justice movement. Primarily concerned with the disproportionate impact of pollution on communities-of-color (environmental racism), the environmental justice movement has expanded to include discussions of infrastructure disinvestment, economic equality, land use, climate justice, food justice, policy processes, and many other environmental issues related to equity and justice.

Facilitators: Jordan Estevao, Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund, MD; J.C. Kibbey, Natural Resources Defense Council; and Delmar Gillus, Elevate Energy

Faith and Labor Track: A Faith and Labor "Theory to WIN!" – A304

When labor wins, communities win. When communities win, labor wins. But for too long the relationship between faith and labor has been transactional. When we look at the shared threats and shared opportunities in our states, we realize we must and can do better. What could our shared power become? How can we build now to show up bigger in 2024? Outcomes: discover opportunities for power building between faith and labor, surface shared self-interest and power maps, hear about examples big and small that have worked.

Facilitators: David Gerth, MCU, MO, and Laura Barrett, Campaign Coordinator, SEIU Healthcare, MO

***Nun Caucus Track: Nun Caucus at 2022 Race and Power 4 – A100**

This caucus is by and for sisters, associates, partners in mission and seekers – associated in some way with religious sisters and community organizing in the Gamaliel network for the purpose of creating a strategic plan for the action statements found in the Nun Caucus Statement of Intentions. The action statements are:

- Invite Sisters’ congregations to identify ways groups and individuals can connect with local Gamaliel affiliates for direct action organizing, education, planning and training.
- Ensure the “nun culture” voice is in dialogue with Gamaliel’s various decision-making tables.

- Collaborate, partner and consciously raise with organizations, such as Network and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, FAN, Peace and Justice networks and others in the work of transformational justice.
- Develop, conduct, and sponsor specific trainings for Sisters and associates on the “Attitudes, Arts, Disciplines and Spirituality” of organizing in the Gamaliel Network tradition.

Facilitator: Sr. Cheryl Liske, Gamaliel

***Seminarians Track: A continuation of Wednesday, November 30 – A Theological Framework for RAP that leads into a discussion of campaigns, culture, and climate – A306**

Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise-Baker, Director, Contextual Education, Eden Theological Seminary; Rev. Dr. John C. Welch, Chair, Gamaliel Board of Directors

Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) Track: Using Local Issues to Energize Voters and Build Base – A307

Integrated Voter Engagement challenges organizations to break the cycle of boom and bust created by the election calendar. Everyone knows that 2024 is a major election year in the U.S. Demonstrating the power we want depends on consistently engaging voters every year. During 2023 we can elevate the importance of local races which most directly impact our issue campaigns (ex: judges, DA's, sheriffs, school boards). When we engage “drop-off” voters in odd numbered years, our power will grow in even years - and our engagement muscles stay sharp!

Facilitators: Gabriel Calixto, UCM, IL; Marcus Winn, MORE2, MO and KS; Lori Hawkins, CUSH, WI; and Emma Shafer, FCCG, IL

Breakout 4 – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. ET

Transformational Justice Track: Organizing Our Constituencies for Transformational Justice – Bridge Room

This workshop will examine the different kinds of people we need to involve if we want to build an inclusive, powerful movement. This will include talking about the involvement of:

- Formerly-incarcerated men
- Formerly-incarcerated women
- "Indirectly Impacted"
- Faith Leaders
- Lay people, and other people of good will who want to be part of the solution

Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Marlon Tilghman, BRIDGE Maryland, Inc.; Carl Fields and Marianne Oleson, EXPO, WI

Environmental Justice Track – Environmental Justice Campaign and Coalition Models – A303

A presentation on various successful environmental justice campaigns and coalitions. Learn about the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), Illinois' nation-leading climate and energy policy. Hear about how the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, the organization behind CEJA, used a statewide listening campaign to build power to pass CEJA and shift the needle toward environmental justice in Illinois. Additionally, learn about federal funding initiatives related to environmental justice and opportunities for cities, states, and nonprofits.

Facilitators: Jordan Estevao, Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund, MD; J.C. Kibbey, Natural Resources Defense Council; and Delmar Gillus, Elevate Energy

Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) Track: Campaign Planning After 2022 Elections – A307

Gamaliel has moved past operating our voter engagement only during elections cycles. We are linking our issue campaigns, base building and local elections to everything we do - while continuing to engage voters. 2023 will be a year between Federal elections. So it is time to build plans which:

- Pay attention to local elections
- Hold newly electeds accountable for promised made in 2022
- Demonstrate the base-building value of IVE - involving and training those activated in 2022
- Using IVE tools in off-cycle years to build relationships and cut issues

Facilitators: Yolanda Perkins, WISDOM, WI; Ponsella Hardaway, MOSES, MI; Amber Bordolo, Quad Cities Interfaith, IL and IA

***2:30 p.m. – Gamaliel Religious Leaders' Caucus: A Faithful Response to White Christian Nationalism – Auditorium**

We welcome guest speaker Jim Wallis who is the founder of Sojourners, an author, theologian, teacher and activist. This session will call us all to the urgency of this moment as White Christian Nationalism and White Supremacy threaten the future of our democracy. These destructive forces cut against equity, justice and the common good. Gamaliel needs our Religious Leaders to be a prophetic voice strengthened by the multiple faith traditions in our network. During this session we will develop strategies to take back to our local affiliates and organize ourselves for work over the next two years.

Presenter: Jim Wallis, Inaugural Chair in Faith and Justice, Faith and Justice Center at Georgetown University