Conference Theme

Whether we serve in academic, church, or civic arenas, women are faced with particular dilemmas in leadership. Should we transcend negative experiences, trusting that if we sufficiently perform and conform, our institutions will protect us? Should we engage from the margins, striving to subvert or flip dynamics of power and privilege? Institutions have potential to serve as sanctuaries and as mission fields, and this conference gathers women leaders in the space between our institutions to challenge well-known strategies and devise new ones.

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Worship Service:
Marsh Chapel, 735 Commonwealth Ave.

School of Theology:
745 Commonwealth Ave.

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Women in the World

The Princess and the Trickster: Women in Institutions

April 10, 2019

11am-6:30pm

Boston University School of Theology

Hosted by the Anna Howard Shaw Center, Boston University School of Theology
Leadership is hard. Leading within the context of institutional power is even harder. How do we care for ourselves so that we can provide the kind of leadership that can begin to shape a different world? This workshop will offer ideas about the necessity of women’s leadership, the dangers of that leadership, and the radical habits of self-care and soul-care that are necessary to thrive. The workshop will approach these topics from an experiential and narrative framework. Rev. Bingham-Tsai is the Lansing, MI District Superintendents and an Ordained Elder in the West Michigan Annual Conference.

Dr. Virginia Sapiro
(Anna Howard Shaw Center, 320)
Workshop Title: Subordination and Power in Institutions Defined by “Higher Ideals”

Sometimes people are shocked when they find out that institutions that define themselves by “higher ideals” —religious, educational, social service institutions — are afflicted with many of the same dynamics of subordination and occasionally abuse that are institutions experience. Why don’t those ideas protect these institutions from racism, sexism, homophobia, class subordination, and the like? How should the recognition of these failings affect the way we think about idealistic institutions? How can leaders confront these failings in productive, constructive, and healing ways? Dr. Sapiro is Dean of Arts & Sciences Emerita and Professor of Political Psychology at Boston University.