



## Social Justice Institute: Poverty, Race and Sexuality

*Reclaiming the Prophetic Voices of the Movement*

August 3 – 7, 2015

Boston University School of Theology

It was the prophetic voices of ecumenical faith leader that became the catalyst for the Civil Rights movement for a 'Righteous America'. These faith leaders used their pulpits and sacred spaces to address the concerns that for the least advantaged amongst them. As an American society founded on a hunger and thirst for religious freedom was turning a deaf ear to the pleas of a marginalized people, certain that God's creation suffered no stratification; there was a likeminded group, across racial identity, leading the charge for equality. These interfaith leader debated, protested and collaborated on their like social, cultural and political view leading the way to the historic signing of the Civil Rights Act on July 2, 1964 and Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. These "Acts" made near tangible the lofty ideals of the American experiment, rendering equality under the law a present reality for all people regardless of color, sex, or religious beliefs.

**The Social Justice Institute** aims to reclaim the role of the prophetic voices in public life, pulpits and sacred spaces that are essential to continue to move forward issues of social justices. This 5 day intensive continuing education institute is designed to train seminarians, clergy and laity with diverse views and thought leadership through conversations, lectures, worship, and fellowship. The institute endeavors to deepen their thinking and preaching by gleaning from scholars and practitioners on poverty, race, religion, sexuality, and theology.

**The Social Justice Institute** will be held on the campus of Boston University, August 3-7, 2015.

**Applications are due by May 15, 2015.**

To apply click the link below.

\*Cost is \$500 includes program, campus housing and meals. *Scholarships are available.*

Space is limited to 30. Up to 3 CEUs are available.

Participants will have a week to think deeply about the topics through robust academics and thoughtful discernment. The demanding schedule includes:

- Plenaries sessions on social justice and the prophetic voice
- Lectures on poverty, race and sexuality
- Worship Services with around the thought leadership of Samuel Proctor, Howard Thurman, Martin Luther King and Pauli Murray.
- Town Hall on Faith & Justice: *The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act*
- Access to Boston University's archives and libraries and Charles River campus
- Three defined daily reflections periods
- Facilitated discussions group

## Event Highlight:

**Town Hall on Faith & Justice: *The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act***, August 6 2015  
The Town Hall will convey on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. It will consist of leaders who understand the role of faith that emerged across religious and racial identity that was the catalyst for the Civil Movement. It examines how the discourse was needed and remains in need of being framed through a collective prophetic voice of justice for a “people” in need of equality, for the betterment of all, not just the said group.

**Boston University** is a leading private research institution with two primary campuses in the heart of Boston and programs around the world. It traces its roots to the establishment of the Newbury Biblical Institute in Newbury, Vermont in 1839, and was chartered with the name "Boston University" by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1869. The University organized formal Centennial observances both in 1939 and 1989.

Boston University’s founders opened its doors to all students without regard to religion, race, or gender. Building and sustaining a vibrant community of scholars, students, and staff remains essential to our mission of contributing to, and preparing students to thrive in, an increasingly interconnected world.

**Boston University School of Theology** is one of about 15 university-based seminaries in the United States. It is a premiere small professional school nestled with access to all the resources of a country’s fourth-largest private research university. It is home to some of the foremost religious thought leaders of our times to include Anna Shaw Howard, Howard Thurman, Samuel DeWitt Proctor, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The School’s history of marrying academic rigor with social justice is still vital and effective nearly two centuries later. It continues to attract students who seek the best theological training to take action in their local, national, or global context. This is a major distinguishing factor of our School: we believe that to “want to change the world” is more than cliché-it is actually possible.

## Confirmed Faculty & Presenters

**Adam Bond**, *Assistant Professor of Historical Studies*, Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University

**John M. Borders, III**, *Bishop & Senior Pastor*, Morning Star Baptist Church, Mattapan, MA

**Burns Stanfield**, *President*, The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization; *Senior Pastor*, Fourth Presbyterian Church

**Delman Coates**, *Director*, The Black Church Center for Justice and Equality; *Senior Pastor*, Mt. Ennon Church, Clinton, MD

**Chris Evans**, *Professor of History of Christianity & Methodist Studies*, Boston University School of Theology

**Susannah Heschel**, *Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies*, Dartmouth College

**Jamal-Dominique Hopkins**, *President/C.E.O.*, Institute for Advance African American Christian Thought and *Research Fellow*, Cooley Center, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary

**Sheila Jackson Lee**, *Congresswoman (TX-D)*, United States House of Representatives  
**Alisha Lola Jones**, *Research Faculty in Ethnomusicology & Sociology of Religion*, Indiana University  
**Pamela Lightsey**, *Associate Dean; Clinical Assistant Professor of Contextual Theology & Practice*, Boston University School of Theology  
**Marvin A. McMickle**, *President; Professor of Church Leadership; Director, Black Church Studies*, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School  
**Mary Elizabeth Moore**, *Dean & Professor of Education*, Boston University School of Theology  
**Khalil Muhammad**, *Director*, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture  
**Diana Swancutt**, *Director*, Boston Poverty Consortium; *Research Associate Professor of Bible Religion and Global Justice*, Boston University School of Theology; *Global Justice Fellow*, Yale University  
**Jonathan Walton**, *Plummer Professor of Christian Morals & Pusey Minister*, Memorial Church; *Professor of Religion and Society*, Harvard Divinity School

### **Invited**

**Peter Edelman**, *Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law and Public Policy; Faculty Director*, Center on Poverty and Inequality; Georgetown Law  
**Myrlie Evers-Williams**, *Civil Rights Activist*, Evers Institute  
**Dolores Huerta**, *Labor Leader & Civil Rights Activist*, United Farm Workers  
**Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham**, *Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African American Studies; Chair, Department African and African American Studies*, Harvard University  
**TD Jakes**, *Bishop & Senior Pastor*, The Potters House  
**Spike Lee**, *Film Director, Producer, & Actor*, 40 Acres & a Mule Filmworks  
**Peter Morales**, *President*, Unitarian Universal Association  
**Charles Ogletree**, *Jesse Climenko Professor of Law*, Harvard Law School and *Founding & Executive Director*, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice

### **Leadership**

**Keith Magee**, *Convener*, Social Justice Institute & *Visiting Researcher*, Boston University School of Theology; *Distinguished Senior Fellow of Social Justice & Religion*, University of Birmingham, England

### **Co-Sponsors**

Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center  
Howard Thurman Center  
Museum of African American History, Boston & Nantucket  
Inclusion Initiative | Third Sector New England

### **For more information or for questions, please contact:**

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