

Faith Without Works is Dead II:

Exploring the Role of Faith in Equity and Justice Centered Work

Crystal Hill Morton, Ph.D.

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Associate Director of Research - GLEC
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EquiLearn Virtual Roundtable

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Welcome



This is an interactive work session - join the discussion live and with audio.

To reduce noise distraction, mute your microphone when not speaking.



We will be using various Zoom tools to engage in this work session.



Make yourself comfortable.



Move about as you need.



Take breaks as needed.



Alt text is used on slide images.

A Note About Access

Disclaimer

We aim to make this unique learning experience available to others across Region III by providing recordings and transcriptions of the Series on our website, as well as posting pictures on our social media platforms. Please consider in light of your sharing. This will not pertain to any concurrent virtual activities with youth.

Commitments for Engaging in Courageous Conversations

Stay engaged

Speak (Express) your truth

Experience discomfort

Expect and accept non-closure

(Singleton & Linton, 2006)

Today's Facilitator



Crystal Hill Morton, Ph.D.

Purpose

In fall 2021, we had a powerful discussion with the following five Black women about the intersection of their faith tradition and community-engaged and justice-centered work.

Today we will continue this **critical** discussion.

Arlène Casimir



Arlène Elizabeth Casimir is a Brooklyn based activist, educator, healer, consultant, and author. She has spent the last 13 years honing her practice and research with a focus on literacy, trauma, spirituality, and social justice.

As a first generation Haitian American, Arlène recognizes the power of community, literacy, and spiritual resilience to help others live with personal integrity, transcend their circumstances, and author their own lives.

Dr. Akosua Lesesne



Dr. Patricia (Akosua) Lesesne is an Educational Design Leader. She specializes in developing and leading the implementation of education leader and instructional coaching, curriculum, programs, and pedagogy that employ an African American education for liberation approach to inspire Black learners.

Akosua is an ordained Presbyterian elder (PCUSA). She was also licensed and ordained at the New Mount Olive Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale, FL, by the late Rev. Dr. Mack King Carter.

Olísa Yaa Tolókun



Olísa Yaa Omíyále Tolókun is an Apetebí (wife of the divinity Ọ̀rúnmìlà), and Íyaloríṣa (initiated priestess) of Ọṣún in the Ifá/ Yorùbá spiritual tradition. She is also a devotee of Damballa Wedo and a mother of many.

She is also the Executive Director of Sankofa Psychological Services of Atlanta, and the founder of the Sakhu School of Psychology.

Olísa Yaa Tolókun is an *LPC* (licensed professional counselor), spiritual coach and a licensed addictions counselor.

Dr. Ronda Henry-Anthony



Dr. Ronda C. Henry Anthony is Associate Professor of English and Africana Studies, Public Scholar of African American Studies and Undergraduate Research, past Director of Africana Studies, and Founding Executive Director of the Olaniyan Scholars Program at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

She is also working with colleagues to develop an edited volume on spirituality and sistah circles as a way to support, nurture, and encourage Black women.

Hanaa Elmi



Hanaa Elmi is a Somali-Canadian elementary educator in Ontario, Canada. She is a graduate of the University of Windsor and has served in various community roles within both educational and religious spaces.

She was the recipient of her district's "Outstanding Service Award" in 2019. Hanaa is rooted in community work, being in service to her students, families, and colleagues, and ensuring that classrooms are safe, responsive, and humanizing places for students.

Our Request to You:

Points to Ponder

- How do you put your faith in action?
- Please think about how the words of each panelist resonates with how you put your faith in action.
- Any other points that may come to mind?

2021 Revisit

How would you describe your faith tradition?

What is your vision of justice and equity? How does your faith impact your vision?

Can you talk about how your faith helps you navigate the taxing aspects of equity and justice-centered work?

Question #1

In our initial conversation, the importance of our actions being rooted in love as an expression of one's faith was a reoccurring theme.

Can you each talk about how you turn that love inward?

In other words, what does it mean to **radically love oneself** in your faith tradition?

QUESTION #2

It is acknowledged that spirituality is an essential part of one's humanity. In education, we often consider our minds either by focusing on academics or emotional well-being.

- What are the considerations for incorporating a focus on **spirituality** in schooling spaces?
- Can you talk about what you imagine this would look like and what it would mean for kids, teachers, administration, staff, caregivers, and community members?

Let us take time to imagine.



QUESTION #3

Given this is our second conversation about the intersection of one's faith tradition and community-engaged and justice center work, what else do we need to consider that we haven't already considered?



Time for a Group Photo!

***One photo per Zoom screen of attendees**

3, 2, 1 countdown

Let's do it!



Additional Resources

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Equity and Justice Centered Work**

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EquiLearn Virtual Roundtable



Thursday September 9, 2021

Midwest & Plains Equity Assistance Center 2021



Equity by Design:

Supporting Student Success through
Authentic Partnerships: Reflection
from Parents and Caregivers

Crystal Morton





Join the Conversation on Social Media

Facebook: Great Lakes Equity Center
Twitter @GreatLakesEAC

How are you going to apply what you learned today?
#MAPEquity @GreatLakesEAC

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

Post-Session Questionnaire

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