

# Community Empowerment Through Black Men Healing Conference



June 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2018

Metropolitan State University 700 East Seventh Street, St. Paul MN 55106

## DAY ONE PANELISTS

### FAITH AND COMMUNITY HEALING PANEL



**Panel Moderator: Reverend Aledria "Lee" Buckley** is a licensed and ordained minister who served as an Associate Minister at Progressive Baptist Church in St. Paul, MN and currently is a founding member of Ruach Christian Center in Maplewood, MN. She is currently the Chief Operating Officer of Ujamaa Place. Prior to her coming to Ujamaa Place she lead the MN DOC Diversity and Inclusion Civic Engagement Subcommittee, the Transition Coalitions, and co-leads the Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration (SFAI) Collaborative. Prior MN DOC, she was the Director of the Faith and Community Service Initiative for two governors. More info: <http://www.ujamaaplace.org>



**Imam Makram El-Amin** As imam of Masjid An-Nur in Minneapolis, Minnesota, he's led a fast-growing, culturally diverse congregation in his hometown to the forefront of interfaith dialogue and neighborhood outreach. A 2014 Bush Fellowship recipient, El-Amin imagines a new narrative of Muslim life and leadership, one that has at its core a vision for social change and justice. He was a 2012 American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute Fellow at the University of Southern California, studying the intersections of faith and civic life, and was recently appointed a Chaplain for the Minneapolis Police Department. A teacher and facilitator, El-Amin has led his mosque's numerous community service initiatives, including Al Maa'uun Neighborly Needs Community Outreach Services, feeding more than 500 families monthly. El-Amin has represented Muslim Americans in the United Kingdom, Turkey and the Middle East. He's a longtime member of the Minneapolis Multi-faith Network and serves on the advisory board of the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Center at the University of St. Thomas, where most recently, he was a lead participant in Pathways to Faith, a five-part series on interfaith dialogue. A student of the late religious leader and scholar Imam W. Deen Mohammed, El-Amin's moderate approach to Islam has afforded him opportunities to share the stage with Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. He attended a historic interfaith event in Rome with Pope John Paul II and has traveled to the Holy Land as a member of interfaith clergy delegations. More info: [www.makramelamin.com](http://www.makramelamin.com)



**Rev. Marchelle Hallman** was ordained an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the 1989 Chicago Annual Conference. Rev. Hallman was the first AME women minister appointed to the pastorate in the state of Minnesota. Rev. Hallman served as Pastor of St Mark AME Church in the city of Duluth and Mother St James AME in South Minneapolis. Rev. Marchelle Hallman majored in Social work and Psychology graduating with a Bachelors of Arts from Augustana College, Sioux Falls SD in 1976. She received her Master's Degree from Bethel Theological Seminary in 1989. In 1994 Rev. Hallman entered into the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Fairview St Mary's Hospital system, where she completed four units and became a staff chaplain. In 1995 Pastor Hallman was hired by the State of Minnesota Department of Corrections. She has served as a state chaplain in the correctional setting for over twenty one years. Rev. Hallman seeks to live Micah 6:8 "It has been told to you, what is good; and what the Lord does require: only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." As a handmaiden of the Lord and daughter of the Most High God, she is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Advisory committee of the Welcome Home Re-entry program, Legislative strategy team member of the Beacon Interfaith Housing Initiative, Board of Legacy Keepers INC, and The Stair step Foundation Elder's Council.



**Rev. Richard D. Terrell** was born in Minneapolis, MN. He graduated from North Central University, Minneapolis, MN with a BS in Communications and a minor in Biblical Studies, and then he attended the University of Northwestern, St. Paul and received a Master's in Theological Studies. Rev. Terrell is a young but seasoned minister of the Gospel. He is currently a Youth Minister at Park Avenue United Methodist Church, serving as a mentor to youth, developing worship and faith-forming opportunities for youth and working directly with students and parents in the Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools. He also on the staff at Ujamaa Place supporting men involved in the educational programming. Richard is married to Kennitra and they are the proud parents of Zyree. He enjoys empowering, inspiring, and encouraging young people to use their God-given

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talents through the Word of God.



**Dr. Rev Brian C. Herron Sr, Zion Baptist Church** is an Inner City Minister who strives to build working, cohesive partnerships among perceived, identified and unlikely stakeholders. His goal is find common bonds and then build upon them. He is empathetic and compassionate, yet discerning, and insightful. Dr. Herron is articulate, and eloquent in his sermons, yet down to earth and practical in conversations. "We have to go out to the people and start being present," he said. "Churches have to learn how to balance the ministry of social justice with the call of the church." More info: [www.zbcmn.org](http://www.zbcmn.org)

## ACTIVISM AND RACIAL HEALING PANEL



**Panel Moderator: LaDonna Redmond** is an established food justice activist who began her career in advocacy after encountering a lack of healthy, fresh and pesticide-free food in her neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago. She has worked with the public school system to get junk food out of cafeteria lunches and healthy options into food deserts – but she recognizes that "Food justice is not just about nutrition." She currently works as the Education and Outreach Coordinator at Seward Co-Op's Friendship site and writes a column for the Minnesota Spokesman Recorder called The Color of Sustainability. [www.ladonnaredmond.org](http://www.ladonnaredmond.org)



**Jason Sole** has been a criminal justice educator for eight years and is a Visiting Professor at Hamline University. He is a national keynote speaker and trainer. Alongside his career, he is the former president of the Minneapolis NAACP creating liberation programs for people of color. Through his firm, Jason Sole Consulting LLC, he offers juvenile and criminal justice agencies the tools they need to influence people affected by delinquency, incarceration, poverty, and other social ills. In addition, Sole was a 2013 Bush Fellow who focused on reducing the recidivism rate among juveniles throughout the state of Minnesota. He is currently traveling the country discussing his memoir, *From Prison to Ph.D.: A Memoir of Hope, Resilience, and Second Chances*. More info: [www.jasonsole.com](http://www.jasonsole.com)



**Anika Bowie** is a fierce advocate for people of color subjugated in the margins of the criminal justice systems, intergenerational poverty, and historical trauma. After graduating from Central High School with honors, she earned her Bachelor's degree from Hamline University in Criminal Justice and Sociology minoring in Social Justice. Bowie is currently the Co-Chair of Minneapolis NAACP Criminal Justice Reform Committee where she has spearheaded Warrant Forgiveness Day in both Hennepin and Ramsey County. She has built a reputation as a community educator, organizer, and connector by nourishing the seed of trust with government officials, community, and youth. More info: [www.naacpmpls.com](http://www.naacpmpls.com)



**Elizer Darris** is the Lead Consultant with the Darris Consulting Group, which aims to inspire hope and spark dialogue centered on the power of individuals to effect change in their world. After being sentenced to natural life in prison as a juvenile and violently struggling for years in adult facilities, Elizer Eugene Darris fought to turn his life around. Self-education became his vehicle of self-discovery and through it, his life was redeemed. He became a business owner, consultant, educator, IT specialist and motivational speaker. He strives to be impactful and effect change in the world around him. Elizer was selected as a 2017 AALF Josie R. Johnson Leadership Fellow where he studied Community Leadership and Combating Unconscious Bias. Currently, he works as a Field Organizer with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Elizer speaks to businesses, colleges, high schools, law enforcement agencies and social justice organizations offering a message of resiliency even in the face of enormous adversity. He also conducts workshop trainings centered upon organizational and personal leadership. His message is: We are the captains of our ships and the masters of our fate despite irrespective of what circumstance we may face. More info: [speakerhub.com/speaker/elizer-darris](http://speakerhub.com/speaker/elizer-darris)



**Dr. Bruce Purnell** is the founder and executive director of a community based non-profit organization called The Love More Movement. He is an author, artist, speaker and community activist. Dr. Purnell is a 5th generation Washingtonian and a direct descendent of Underground Railroad conductors. Like his ancestors, he has dedicated his life to creating a world Love and Transformation are normative and justice, equality, education, self- sufficiency and freedom exist for everyone. Dr. Purnell is currently working with over 300 youth, 100 parents and 50 seniors in 7 "Love-More" communities in the Washington Metropolitan Area with international sites in Southern Ontario and Nigeria. He is also finishing a book entitled "Finding My Eagle" about the process of self-discovery involved with finding ones inner Wings. Dr. Purnell has developed a process for strategically activating social entrepreneurs and architects with the purpose of bringing a creative culture of Love, Hope, Healing, Health, Resilience and Trust to the most vulnerable communities in the world. The Love-More Movements' universal hashtags state that #HealedPeopleHealPeople, "#WeLoveMore" and "#WeRedefineCool" because Dr. Purnell intends to demonstrate that the

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combination of Love, Resilience, Positive Motivation and Transformation is a social panacea. He believes that this combination produces the type of energy that heals the root wounds from myriad trauma and motivates people to achieve, thrive and serve. Dr. Purnell's team engages youth, parents, seniors, families and communities in creative dialogue, strategically designed to build trust and create safe spaces for healing, honesty, creativity and transformation. "Love Like You've Never Been Hated" More info: [www.lovemovement.org](http://www.lovemovement.org)

## HEALING AND A SAFE COMMUNITY PANEL



**Panel Moderator: W. Curtis Marshall, MS** is a Public Health Consultant with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Utilizing structured analytical approaches, he works with public health departments, community-based organizations, and consortiums to identify root causes, to develop and implement population-based and health equity strategies and programs, targeting at-risk populations to improve community health. He is a founding member of the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative, serving eight years as program chairperson for the Milwaukee Fatherhood Summit. He is passionate regarding positive father and male involvement in their children's lives and provides consultation to fatherhood and family service providers.



**Tiffany Turner-Allen, Ujima Program Director The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community** is best known for her passionate style. Her work has been intense and across various issues of health, public health and education; her areas of expertise include Violence in the Black Community, Violence Against Women, Engaging Black Men and Boys, HIV & AIDS, Adjudicated Youth, Educational Equity, Animal Abuse, Bullying, School to Prison Pipeline, Infant Mortality, Healthcare Reform & Access, Food Deserts, Technology & the Digital Divide, Returning Citizens, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking and Stalking. She holds a BA in Communications and a minor in African-American studies from George Mason University; as well as a Certificate in Community Health Leadership from Morehouse School of Medicine. Lastly, she is very proud of her roles as wife, daughter, mother, pet-parent, friend, advocate, activist, trainer, mentor, mentee and leader. As a proven leader with remarkable dedication, she is driven to experience new things, people, and opportunities and lives by her desire and determination to enhance the lives of others! Tiffany has embarked upon the next and natural phase in her career as the Program Director for Ujima – The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community. She focuses on training, education, outreach and policy advocacy around domestic violence, sexual violence and community violence in the Black community. More info: [ujimacommunity.org](http://ujimacommunity.org)



**Resmaa Menakem, M.S.W.**, is a visionary Justice Leadership coach, organizational strategist and master trainer. To help Justice leaders really realize their potential in the areas of Equity & Racee, Resmaa created cultural somatics which utilizes the Body & Resilience as mechanisms for growth. Resmaa is a dynamic and fully engaged justice leadership coach who is dedicated in partnering with leaders whose intention is to assist others in leading better lives and organizations. Resmaa is passionate about coaching those courageous leaders who dedicate their lives toward making the world a better place. As the founder of Justice Leadership Solutions, a Justice Leadership consultancy firm, Resmaa Menakem dedicates his expertise to "coaching justice leaders through civil unrest and restlessness; justice leaders who feel isolated; and for those who sense that their voice is unsupported and feel somewhat cynical but who still have the fire and desire for change and creating justice for all." Resmaa is an accomplished author of three books; *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*, *101 Tips for Emerging Justice Leaders*, and a powerful book on conflict in relationships titled *Rock the Boat: How to use Conflict to Heal and Deepen Relationships*. As a prodigious public speaker, radio and television personality, Resmaa has appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey* and *Dr. Phil* shows as an expert on conflict mediation, self-care and healing. Resmaa has been a non-profit executive and business owner for over 28 years. He possesses vast expert experience in strategic planning, equity leadership coaching and marketing. **Visit him at [JusticeLeadershipsolutions.net](http://JusticeLeadershipsolutions.net)**

**Kasim Abdur Razzaq, LICSW Clinical Social work and Education (see keynotes above)**



**Lisa Wilson-Good is the founder and director of Urban Grief.** Urban Grief responds to the trauma associated with community violence by working to increase awareness about the trauma, and grief/loss, associated with violence exposure. Urban Grief offers crisis, trauma, grief support and victim advocacy to community members. She is an experienced speaker and trainer, facilitating trauma informed workshops such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and community events, and faith based workshops aimed at empowering community members through information about trauma, grief and resilience. Additionally, she is the coordinator for Albany's Trauma Response Team, which responds to violence related traumatic events within neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by community violence. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Skidmore College, and a Master of Social Work degree from State University of New York: University at Albany, and is currently pursuing

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Ph.D. in the School of Social Welfare. She is the former director of SNUG (GUNS) and the Homer Perkins Center (long-term adult residential drug treatment) has over 20 years of human service experience as an addiction professional, HIV educator, Crime Victims/Sexual Assault crisis advocate, and community activist. She has served as a volunteer board member for a number community based organizations. She is not only advocate, but also trauma survivor and uses her personal experience with gun violence to raise awareness at local, state and national levels about the cost of gun violence and need for sensible gun legislation reform. She remains active in the fight to eradicate violence, increase awareness about the traumatic impact of exposure to violence and break down the walls of isolation and fear. More info: [urbangrief.org](http://urbangrief.org)

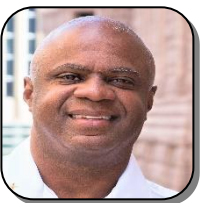
## DAY TWO PANELISTS



**Panel Moderator: Reg Chapman** came to WCCO from WNBC-TV in New York City where he covered an array of stories including the Coney Island plane crash and 50 shots fired at motorist Sean Bell by New York Police. Prior to that, Reg was a crime-beat reporter at KSTP-TV in Minneapolis. He also reported at WPXI-TV in Pittsburgh, Pa., where he covered the crash of Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001. Before that, Reg was a reporter/anchor for WHIO-TV in Dayton, Ohio, WOWT-TV in Omaha, Neb., and KTIV-TV in Sioux City, Iowa. A Gulf War veteran. Reg graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in broadcast journalism. He has received the Edward R. Murrow award for investigative reporting, several Associated Press awards, honors from the Society of Professional Journalists and the YMCA honored him as a Black Achiever. [minnesota.cbslocal.com/personality/reg-chapman](http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/personality/reg-chapman)



**Judge Pamela G. Alexander** was re-appointed to the Hennepin County District Court in 2013 by Governor Mark Dayton after serving 5 years as the President of the MN Council on Crime and Justice. Judge Alexander was originally appointed to the bench by Governor Rudy Perpich in 1983 making her the first African-American woman Judge in the State of Minnesota. She has presided over cases in the criminal, civil, family and juvenile divisions of the Court, having been the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division and Assistant Chief Judge of the Court as a whole. Judge Alexander started her legal career as a Trust Attorney for US Bank, a criminal defense lawyer for the Legal Rights Center and an Assistant Hennepin County Attorney. Judge Alexander is also an adjunct professor at Wm Mitchell College of Law and St. Thomas Law School and serves on a number of boards and commissions. Judge Alexander has devoted herself to service in the community and consequently has received over 75 community service awards. The latest being the 2017 Sabathani Community Leadership Award, 2017 St. Thomas Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2016 Pioneer Award – The Cultural Wellness Center, 2015 Distinguished Service Award – Governor Dayton's MLK Council, the MN Women Lawyers 2015 Myra Bradwell Award and the 2015 Mpls. Urban League Trailblazer Award. Judge Alexander is married and has 2 adult children.



**Art Knight, Deputy Chief/Chief Of Staff with the Minneapolis Police Department** began his career with the Minneapolis Police Department in 1992, and has served in several investigative roles in addition to working in both the 3rd and 4th Precincts. His investigative experience includes assignments in Public Housing, Sex Crimes, Family Violence and Assault. Most recently, he has served as a Lieutenant in the 4th Precinct and as the leader of the MPD's Procedural Justice Team, which facilitated department-wide training focused on history and how it relates to police interactions today. He has also been a volunteer coach for the Police Activities League for more than 20 years. As the Deputy Chief/Chief of Staff, Knight will be a crucial connection between the MPD and the communities it serves while overseeing the department's progressive initiatives, including (but not exclusive to) the National Initiative for Building Trust & Legitimacy.



**Dianne Simon Binns**, President of St. Paul Branch of NAACP and the current Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee. As a community activist, she assumes that if one is not part of the solution they are part of the problem. In that vein, on any given day you can find Dianne working with African American inmates regarding civil rights issues that affect them. She has held the position co-chair of the Prison Outreach Committee for the St. Paul Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1990. She retired from Hennepin County Community Corrections, in 2014 after 24 years. In June, 2016 Dianne was selected by the African American Community in St. Paul to serve on the former Police & Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission which is currently the Civilian Police Internal Review Commission. For the past 24 years on Monday nights, at River of Life Christian Church Dianne has facilitates a 12-step chemical dependency group, leading the discussion and lecturing on parenting and other topics. She also was a private consultant with the Minnesota Child Welfare Training System for 20 years, and in that capacity shared her knowledge with child welfare professionals working with clients of poverty, clients of color and those entranced in the child welfare system. As a private consultant Dianne also facilitated a weekly women group, working with women involved in the child welfare system and the criminal justice system. She provided information on skills that assist

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clients with the elimination of barriers that prevent them from being successful and allow for positive lifestyle changes. Dianne has received numerous awards for her service to her community and the awards she cherishes the most are: In 1989 when she left the Minnesota Department of Corrections at Stillwater the African American prisoners gave her a beautiful gold clock that still hangs in her home for her service to them during her tenure at the prison. In 1995 Dianne received the Virginia McKnight Binger Award in Human Services from the McKnight Foundation for her volunteer work to her community. In 2003 Dianne received the S.E. Hall Community Service Award from the St. Paul Urban League and the Community Service Award from the Limited Thirty Black Women's Network. She has a degree in psychology/Criminal Justice from the University of Minnesota and went on to obtain her master's degree in social work from the School of Social Work at University of Minnesota that enabled her to leave the welfare role. Dianne does not believe anyone can fail if they have the courage to struggle. She always says to those in the trenches, "Hey, we can get this done, remember God did not make any failures." More info: [www.naacp-stpaul.org](http://www.naacp-stpaul.org)



**Justin Terrell, Executive Director of the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage** is a political strategist with a track record of policy victories and community engagement. Terrell has led successful campaigns focused on Criminal Justice and Democracy reform. He is an accomplished trainer and has led political education locally, nationally and in Central Europe. Terrell has mobilized thousands across the state of Minnesota and has worked to develop community members as advocates, organizers and candidates. In 2013, Justin led the campaign to move Target Corporation to adopt Fair Hiring Practices that removed barriers to employment for people with criminal records. For this work Justin was awarded the **2014 Facing**

**Race Ambassador Award from the Saint Paul Foundation**. Justin has worked on community efforts to restore voting rights for people on felony probation. Through this work, he has moved hundreds of formerly incarcerated eligible voters to participate in elections and advocacy. In his first year as the Executive Director of the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage, Justin has already begun to transform the agency. He has worked with the community and Legislators to advance a legislative agenda and mobilize over 200 members of the African Heritage community to the State Capitol. The Council has met with lawmakers in the Majority and Minority party and hosted Mayor Melvin Carter for their Day on the Hill in February 2018. Justin has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work with over ten years' of experience working with youth and families in crisis. As a Civil Rights Advocate, he has advocated for police accountability and continues to expand this work. He is currently pursuing a Masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership at Metro State. Justin lives in Richfield with his wife and two children. Terrell is also a friend and mentor to a dynamic young man from North Minneapolis. More info: [mn.gov/cmah](http://mn.gov/cmah)



**Dr Delishia M Pittman** is an Assistant Professor in Counseling Psychology at George Washington University. She is trained as a generalist practitioner with clinical expertise in diagnosis, assessment, and intervention with dually diagnosed populations, the treatment of trauma and substance abuse/dependence histories, as well as working with African/African American populations. Additionally, her work focuses on areas of diversity (broadly defined) and cultural competence in clinical training and supervision. Dr. Pittman is a behavioral scientist. Her research addresses social, psychological, and cultural determinants of racial/ethnic disparities in health behaviors and health outcomes among marginalized populations and communities. Dr Pittman is also associated with Portland Community College and Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare as Counselor.



**Coach Larry McKenzie**, the First coach to win four straight state titles in the 100-year history of the Minnesota State Boys Basketball at Minneapolis Patrick Henry and most recently became the first coach in Minnesota history to lead two schools to multiple state titles after having now led Minneapolis North to two straight Class A state titles. He is a long-time community and youth advocate with 25 plus years of experience working with urban youth. His service to young people has earned him numerous awards and recognition including KARE 11's Eleven Who Care, KTCA's Everyday Hero, the Minneapolis Park Board's Volunteer of the Year, and Positive Image Father of the Year. He is author or co-author in three publications, *Basketball So Much More Than Just a Game*, *Let Me Testify*. He is featured in Chuck Brown's X's O's and W's. He is co-host of a weekly program titled *Community Value Conversations* on KMOJ 89.9 FM radio.

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